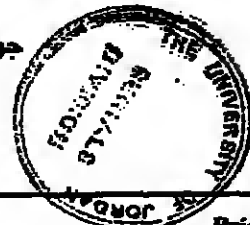


## Israelis bar Palestinians from roadsides

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)** — The Israeli army banned Palestinians from roadsides in the occupied West Bank at night on Saturday in an attempt to reduce armed attacks on Israeli vehicles, official military sources said. "From this evening the movement of residents will be forbidden on the sides of the roads in (the West Bank) for all the hours of darkness from 5 p.m. until 6 a.m.," the sources said. The ban would be in effect indefinitely in open areas and was imposed in response to night-time attacks on Israeli motorists by Palestinians, the sources said. More than 100,000 Jews live among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A rapid expansion of settlement by the Israeli government has been condemned internationally as an obstacle to peace. Settlers carry a different-colored number plate than Palestinian vehicles and are frequent targets of stone and firearm attacks by Palestinians. Israeli sources said some army officers were sceptical such a ban could be enforced. In the occupied Gaza Strip, residents reported fierce clashes between soldiers and Palestinians demonstrating to mark four years since the founding of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى



## Algerian Islamists to contest poll

**ALGIERS (R)** — Algeria's biggest opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said Saturday it would take part in the country's first multi-party general election due on Dec. 26. The FIS announced two weeks after the official start of campaigning that it would field candidates in all 430 constituencies for seats in the National Assembly. "To take a step towards the establishment of an Islamic state... the Majlis Ashoura has decided the FIS will take part in the forthcoming legislative elections," the party said in a statement after a meeting of its ruling body. The FIS had been threatening to boycott the election if its top two leaders were not freed from military detention. They have been held since last June after 55 people were killed in clashes between FIS supporters and security forces.

Volume 16 Number 4881

AMMAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHERA 9, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Iraq says Iran not releasing prisoners

**BAGHDAD (R)** — A newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday said Saturday a majority of Iraqis released recently by Iran were not prisoners of war (PoWs) but soldiers who took refuge there. Iraq freed 450 Iraqis on Nov. 22 saying they were captured during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. "The Iraqis released by the Iranian authorities... included military men who were forced to take refuge in Iran during acts of riots and aggression against Iraq and included very few prisoners of war," Babil said in an editorial. Tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims fled to Iran when the Iraqi army crushed their rebellion against the government shortly after the Gulf war in February. Iraq has been pressing Iran to release its PoWs estimated by Western diplomats in Tehran at 30,000. Iraq says they will be freed in exchange for 5,000 Iranians still held by Iraq.

## Moroccan groups press for amnesty

**CASABLANCA (R)** — Leaders of 23 Moroccan political, trade union and humanitarian organisations met in Casablanca Saturday to demand the release of all political prisoners. A spokesman told Reuters they hoped to collect a million signatures for a petition to Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki calling for release of all political and trade union prisoners and amnesty for exiles. The group did not give a figure for Moroccan prisoners or exiles. Human rights groups estimate 800 people are in jail for their opinions. They include dozens of Marxists jailed for plotting to overthrow the monarchy, 14 Muslim fundamentalists sentenced to death in 1985 for plotting a "violent revolution," and several hundred people jailed after bloody riots in 1981, 1984 and 1990.

## Sudan signs trade deal with Iran

**NICOSIA (R)** — Iran and Sudan signed a trade agreement Saturday during President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's visit to Khartoum, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. Iran will export oil, agricultural machinery, medicine and electrical equipment to Sudan, which will ship meat, vegetable oil and maize in return, it said. It also calls for establishment of a shipping line between Iran and Sudan. Mr. Rafsanjani, returning from an Islamic summit in Senegal, arrived on Friday for the first by an Iranian head of state.

## 7 under probe for arms sales to Libya

**ROME (AP)** — A prosecutor has notified seven people, including two Libyans, that they are being investigated for alleged illegal arms sales to Libya, the Italian news agency ANSA said Saturday. Deputy Prosecutor Franco Jotta declined for now to identify any of the seven or to release specifics about the investigation. A special police investigation team has determined the illegal traffic included equipment used in the production of chemical weapons, the agency said. ANSA said the investigators believe the equipment was routed from Italy towards Libya through other unspecified countries. It said the magistrate has sought help in the investigation from the other countries.

## Kuwait to strip Khaled Al Hassan of citizenship

**KUWAIT (R)** — Khaled Al Hassan, one of the few Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders who did not support Iraq in the Gulf crisis, will be stripped of his Kuwaiti citizenship, palace sources said on Saturday. A decree will be issued on Sunday, they said. They did not say why. Mr. Hassan is a member of the central committee of the mainstream PLO faction Fatah. He was one of the few Palestinian officials who avoided rhetoric during the Gulf war and kept up relations with Saudi Arabia, where he took refuge during Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, his former base.

## Negotiators fine-tune proposal to consolidate two-track peace talks

By Nermeen Murad and Ghadeer Taher in Washington

**THE JOINT** Jordanian-Palestinian delegation met Saturday morning to prepare a counter-proposal to present to Israel's head of delegation as another round of "corridor diplomacy" is expected to resume Monday.

While Jordanian delegates say the latest Israeli proposal to resolve the issue of separation of the joint delegation into two distinctive tracks was an "improvement" over their earlier proposals, they maintain that "basic

problems have not yet been solved."

The Israelis have recognised the two-track — Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli — approach to the negotiations, but there still remained disagreement over how often a plenary meeting, which would bring the joint delegation and Israelis together, would meet and how many delegates from each of the three parties would attend. There was also disagreement over the legal authority each track should have to conclude agreements.

According to sources close to the Israeli delegations, they are planning to return home Tuesday to report back to their govern-

ment but they say the decision was not final and they may extend until some progress is achieved. Jordanian delegates say they will insist that the Israeli teams remain in Washington until the issue of separation of the joint delegation is resolved and they move from the corridors and begin negotiations.

Reports from sources close to the Israeli delegation said "chances have increased" that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would take a decision soon to authorise the delegations to return to Washington in January to continue negotiations with their Arab counterparts after breaking for Christmas holidays. These reports could not be confirmed immediately but the sources maintained that there is now a realisation in Israel that there is no need to change the venue of the talks and that they could resume next month in the U.S. capital.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, whose role in the peace process has been minimised by in-government rivalry, is expected in Washington Monday night. He is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush to "personally thank him for his efforts to repeal the General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism."

Dr. Jawad Al Anani, a senior member of the Jordanian delegation,

(Continued on page 5)

## Sentiment swings against Israel

**AMERICAN SENTIMENT** is swinging against Israel, a poll conducted by the Wall Street Journal has revealed. According to the Journal's poll, 41 per cent of Americans now consider Israel the biggest obstacle to peace against 29 per cent who blame the Arabs. According to a report that appeared in the Journal Saturday "pro-Israeli forces (in the U.S.) have all but given up on getting their desperately-sought \$10 billion loan guarantee in one shot."

"They now hope to win a one-year installment of \$2 billion," the Journal said.

According to the newspaper, almost two-to-one American voters do not think the Middle East talks will lead to peace; 55 per cent to 40 per cent, however, thought the U.S. should try to achieve peace in the region, the Journal reported.

## Scant U.S. media attention as Mideast talks remain in recess

Special from Washington

**POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS** in the Soviet Union and American internal issues continued to dominate newscasts and newspaper coverage in the U.S. media. Middle East peace negotiations, having recessed for the weekend, drew scant attention, represented by a news report and a feature in the Washington Post, and a short story dated Jerusalem in the New York Times. Friday's Wall Street Journal published the results of a poll conducted recently in which it was found that American public "sentiment is swinging against Israel, further endangering its loan guarantees" (see separate story).

In his news report in the Washington Post, John Goshko wrote that "the gulf between (Israelis and Arabs) is far too wide to permit any quick agreements."

"If you ask me where we will be a year from now, I would predict that we will not have reached any agreement," he quoted a senior Israeli negotiator as saying. "But I also believe that

we will still be negotiating," the Israeli was quoted as saying. "But with little actually happening in the talks, Mr. Goshko wrote, neither of the spokesmen for the Palestinian and Israeli delegations "had much to work with, and their daily performances took on a rote-sounding quality that failed to spark much media interest."

He quoted Dore Gof, an advisor to the Israeli delegation, as acknowledging the slow nature of the peace process and the "boredom" it has created in the country. "We find ourselves in a position of checking the wall, checking the structure... This struggle over the process is very tedious and very boring for the Americans."

Keith Harristoo, a staff writer for the Washington Post, wrote a feature story for the newspaper, lambasting the lack of political public activity to accompany peace negotiations.

"The lack of demonstrations surprised the U.S. Park Service, the agency responsible for granting permits and providing security for demonstrations on federal

## Surprisingly few Mideast marches in Washington

By Keith Harristoo Washington Post

**WASHINGTON** — Since Dec. 4, when the first delegations arrived here for the Mideast peace conference, only one group with an interest in that topic has applied for a permit to demonstrate in Washington.

The lack of demonstrations surprised the U.S. Park Service, the agency responsible for granting permits and providing security for demonstrations on federal properties.

"We expected more requests for permits because of all the demonstrations we have had in the past during important international events," said Earle Kitleman, a Park Service spokesman.

The only demonstration to date was Monday, near the Syrian embassy. The rally and march, sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington and the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews, attracted few spectators and only a handful of reporters.

Two other groups have staged news conferences at the State Department, the site of the negotiations.

Why haven't more of the many groups concerned about the Middle East taken advantage of the talks to get publicity for their causes? It might be the nature of the negotiations themselves, Middle East specialists and various interest groups said. The bottom line is that after a week of talking between the various Arab delegations and the Israelis, not much has happened.

"The talks are taking place in the dark and very little is coming out in the media," said Mary-Jane Deeb, a Middle East specialist at American University. "There are different points of view in terms of what can be achieved, but most people agree that talks should take place."

On Monday, demonstrators gathered slowly in the park near the Syrian embassy, carrying signs that said "Syrian-Jews never have a nice day" and wearing buttons that said "say no to the PLO."

At noon, in front of more than 100 protesters, the parade of speakers from the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews and the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington started. They decided the treatment of the 4,500 Jews who live in Syria and

(Continued on page 5)



## King visits Special Forces, army and marine units

**AMMAN (Petra)** — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Saturday toured several formations and units of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division, the Special Forces and the Royal Marine Forces.

King Hussein first visited a "Special Forces unit and expressed admiration of and pride in the high-level training of the unit in particular, and the Armed Forces in general.

The King then visited several formations and units of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division and one of the Royal Marine Forces units.

King Hussein met with soldiers at these units' training sites and expressed admiration of their performance.

King Hussein said: "With right on our side... and with our readiness to give, our heads will remain high. Our message, which we inherited from our fathers and grandfathers, is in the right place..."

"By God's will, we will all, with the Armed Forces, remain the shield that protects our homeland. You are always in our heart and in the mind. It is our destiny to face experiment after another, and to face challenge after another. We are full of confidence because we will always march forward. By God's will the judgement of the generations which will follow will be for us not against us."

The King was accompanied on the tour by his military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.



Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz Hussam Abu Ghazaleh

## Balqaz named RJ chief; Jaber takes over CAA

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Council of Ministers Saturday approved the resignation of Hussam Abu Ghazaleh as executive president of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, and appointed Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz to succeed him in the post.

The cabinet also approved the resignation of Khalidun Abu Hassan as RJ board chairman but did not announce his successor.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh is expected to be appointed ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, according to informed government sources.

Before succeeding Balqaz in his post, Mr. Jaber served as director general of the Queen Alia International Airport.

## Libya says it will not seek to lure Soviet nuclear scientists

**ROME (Agencies)** — Libya's foreign minister said Saturday his country will not seek to take advantage of the crisis in the Soviet Union to lure Soviet nuclear scientists to Libya.

Foreign Minister Ibrahim Bishari, in remarks carried by the Libyan news agency JANA, said Libya "has no nuclear programme" and sees no need for one.

"Libya has absolutely no intention to benefit from the Soviet nuclear scientists and it is not its policy to lure or tempt them to come here," Mr. Bishari said. He said Libya instead was trying to develop its agricultural, educational and health resources.

U.S. officials have expressed concern about control of the Soviet Union's vast nuclear arsenal as the central government collapses and more Soviet republics join Russian President Boris Yeltsin's new commonwealth.

Mr. Bishari's statement to JANA appeared timed to try to head off concern that Libya would seek to take advantage of the Soviet crisis to obtain nuclear weapons capability.

They also come at a time of heightened tensions because of British, American and French charges that Libya was behind the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland and the 1989 destruction of a French UTA jetliner over Niger.

"Libya is against all nuclear, biological and chemical destructive weapons and stresses that at all international conferences and occasions," Mr. Bishari said.

However, just last year, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) monitoring service quoted JANA as saying Libyan leader

## Israeli activists support displaced Arabs in Silwan

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)** — Israeli leftists toured the Arah East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan Saturday in a show of support for Palestinians trying to evict Jewish settlers who occupied their homes.

Yael Dayan, daughter of former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, led about 20 left-wing activists. They were accompanied by Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein.

A cameraman from Visnews, an international television agency, said Mr. Hussein's assistant was slapped in the face by an Israeli policeman trying to keep protesters away.

Palestinians and leftist Israelis say the settlement of Silwan by Jews threatens Arab-Israeli peace talks under way in Washington.

Despite international protests, Israel's hardline government continues to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

The settlers have occupied five houses in Silwan. They say a housing ministry development company owns the homes and leased them to settlers.

Two Arab families are challenging the settlers in an Israeli court, saying the homes have belonged to them for generations.

## Iraq helping in surprise inspections, U.N. team says

**BAGHDAD (R)** — Iraq is cooperating on surprise inspections aimed at uncovering hidden ballistic missiles, the head of a U.N. team said Saturday.

"I have nothing to complain about of the cooperation with the Iraqis," Colonel Vigor Aabrech told reporters after returning from a trip to western Iraq to search for undeclared Scud missiles.

"We have not been prevented from going anywhere," he said. Mr. Aabrech would not say whether his team had found any more of the Soviet-made missiles or any other ballistic missile capability not declared under Gulf war ceasefire terms.

The United Nations commission charged with destroying Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and chemical weapons earlier this month accused Baghdad of obstructing its efforts.

A four-day standoff in September between Iraqi authorities and U.N. nuclear inspectors who refused to surrender seized documents sparked threats of renewed U.S. military strikes.

Iraq revived memories of the clash two days ago when it accused Mr. Aabrech's team of searching a government office building and examining files which had nothing to do with its military capability.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said the team was trying to stir up trouble to ensure that U.N. trade sanctions, linked partly to Iraq's compliance with the ceasefire resolution, stayed in place.

A previous ballistic team left Baghdad last Monday saying it had supervised the destruction of

all of Iraq's declared missile capability, including its failed "super-guns," built to lob missiles hundreds of kilometres.

Western analysts believe there are discrepancies in the number of Scuds declared by Baghdad and Iraq may have about 200 of the Soviet-made missiles.

Mr. Aabrech said his team would make further surprise visits in Baghdad before leaving on Tuesday but did not know whether the 29-member delegation would be followed by other ballistic experts.

Talabani urges end to strike  
Kurdish leaders called on Saturday for hundreds of hunger strikers in cities across northern Iraq to break their fast.



## General Assembly expected to revoke Zionism resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly is expected to vote Monday to rescind a resolution it passed in 1975 that equates Zionism with racism.

The United States, which has led the campaign, says repeal is assured. U.S. diplomats say they have more than 100 votes to revoke in the 166-member assembly, and more than 70 cosponsors for the resolution.

Israeli Ambassador Yoram Aridor compared the denunciation of Zionism, the philosophy that Jews have a right to Israel, to the practice of tagging Jews with yellow stars of David in the Middle Ages, and again by the Nazis.

"I can say this resolution of 1975 was a stain on Zionism, and it is also a stain on the U.N. itself," he said. "Now I hope that this stain will be removed."

President George Bush said in a speech to the General Assembly in November: "To equate Zionism with racism is to reject Israel itself, a member of good standing of the United Nations. This body cannot claim to seek peace and at the same time challenge Israel's right to exist."

Israel was enraged when the resolution was passed in 1975 at the urging of Arab countries. After the vote, Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog tore up a copy of the resolution and flung the pieces among the General Assembly delegates.

Israel once had been one of the most cherished members of the United Nations, which served as midwife at its birth. The General Assembly voted on Nov. 29, 1947, to divide the British mandate of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, but the Arab state of Palestine was never established.

The United States and its allies dominated the General Assembly until the 1960s, protecting Israel from rebukes by other members. In that decade, decolonisation created many new nations that

headed the Soviet bloc's anti-colonialist rhetoric, and the General Assembly developed a bias against the West.

The vote in the General Assembly was 72-35, with 32 abstentions.

Today, the political make-up of the General Assembly has come full circle. Most developing nations abandoned socialism as a failed experiment even before the Soviet bloc collapsed and the Soviet Union itself began breaking up.

Nations in Africa and elsewhere that shunned Israel are restoring relations. Repeal of the anti-Zionism resolution will be a final step in the world's reconciliation with the Jewish state.

The United States was nearly ready to push for repeal in 1990, but the effort was sidelined by the Gulf crisis and the need to form a Western-Arab coalition against Iraq.

Keeping the coalition together was difficult enough without introducing a contentious issue that would upset the Arabs.

Revocation of the anti-Zionism resolution will not exempt Israel from criticism at the United Nations, and the protection of the United States is no longer assured.

President Bush has not used the U.S. veto to spare Israel condemnation for expelling Palestinians, collective punishment, demolishing Arab homes in the occupied lands or the violence in Jerusalem in 1990, when security forces fired on Palestinians and at least 17 were killed.

Only once before has the General Assembly repealed a political resolution. In 1950, it revoked a recommendation approved in 1946 that Spain, the only axis nation still under fascist rule, be barred from U.N. agencies and that all member nations recall their ambassadors.



PROTECTED BY THE GUN: An Israeli soldier guards a group of Israeli settlers who have seized an Arab home in occupied Arab Jerusalem.

## 2,100-year-old unearthed at ancient Hellenistic city

NICOSIA (R) — A 2,100-year-old mosaic, measuring 10 square metres, has been unearthed at Kourion, and the Department of Antiquities said Saturday the piece was the largest and third oldest ever found on the island.

The mosaic is composed of black, red and white pebbles arranged in large floral motifs in concentric circles and symmetrical chequer-board squares, the announcement said.

It added that "its discovery is a very important and unshakable archaeological evidence of the existence and cultural development of the city of Kourion during the Hellenistic period dating to the second century B.C."

The mosaic was part of the floor decoration of the elaborate hot baths "equipped with a perfect system of under-the-floor heating," the announcement said.

Ancient Kourion was one of the principal ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus dating back more than 2,500 years.

It is located on the edge of a cliff overlooking the Akrotiri Peninsula just west of the southern port-city of Limassol.

The city was rebuilt after its destruction by an earthquake in the 4th century A.D., but was abandoned in the 7th century because of frequent pirate raids.

Excavations at the site have been going on for decades. Earlier discoveries included the unearthing of a well-preserved open-air theatre which is now used for the staging of plays and concerts.

The main target of the latest season of excavations, which was completed in November, was further exploration of the public baths, whose number has now been increased to 12 with the uncovering of five additional rooms.

The excavation also uncovered bronze coins of the period, clay oil lamps and figurines, glass vases and a large quantity of pot shards and other objects.

## Britons invited to claim Iraqi cash

LONDON (R) — Britain has told its citizens who were held by Iraq during the Gulf crisis that they can soon claim compensation from their captors.

Foreign Office official Michael Sullivan said on Saturday U.N. compensation forms would be sent to the former hostages "in the next few weeks."

Hundreds of Britons were trapped in the Gulf after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August last year.

Some were taken to military and strategic sites in Iraq as "human shields" to ward off attacks and some hid under difficult conditions in occupied Kuwait City.

It is planned that compensation should be paid from Iraq's oil export receipts. Interim payments of up to \$55,200 (\$99,500) could be available by the middle of next year.

## Fighting resumes after lull in Somalia

NAIROBI (AP) — Fighting between rival clans for control of Somalia's capital resumed with artillery and mortar barrages Saturday after a one-day lull.

"There is heavy shelling again today," said Gregoire Tavernier, regional deputy director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The shelling renewed a week of almost continuous mortar, rocket and artillery exchanges in various parts of Mogadishu.

Aid workers estimate more than 3,000 people have been killed and nearly 8,000 wounded in the fighting that erupted Nov. 17.

Most of the wounded have been non-combatants, many of them children.

"It is a human disaster," Mr. Tavernier said. "Hospitals are over-flooded with the wounded. There is a shortage of doctors, medicine and now food."

The Red Cross halted food deliveries after a 39-year-old worker, Vin van Boxelraere, was shot while bringing food to a hospital Thursday.

Mr. Tavernier said Mr. Boxelraere's condition had improved and he was evacuated home to Belgium on Saturday.

The fighting is between forces loyal to President Ali Mahdi Muhammad of the ruling United Somali Congress and the party's chairman, General Mohammad Farrah Aidid.

Mr. Ali Mahdi was named president soon after the United Somali Congress chased former President Mohammad Siad Barre.

## Toned down beauty contest doesn't escape Islamic wrath

CAIRO (AP) — This was the plan: Scrap the swimsuit competition, emphasise "inner beauty," and maybe Egypt's new beauty contest would not offend the powerful Islamic scholars who banned its predecessor last year.

It did not work.

Not only did make-up and thigh-high dresses raise eyebrows in a country where women are expected to be properly covered, but the Dec. 28 contest's title — "Egypt's Ideal Woman" — ranked the powers.

"Ideal in what? Singing and dancing?" said Sheikh Ali Sayed Shamseddine, whose clerical committee had last year's "Miss Egypt" contest banned. Egypt's ideal woman should be one that conforms to Islam's dress code and is virtuous, he said.

"The way this contest was organised did great wrong to a society whose official religion is Islam," said Sheikh Mansour Ebied of the government's ministry of religious endowments.

"I tell every girl who participated in this competition to ask for God's forgiveness," he said.

The controversy illustrates a perpetual struggle in Egypt, where people outwardly espouse traditional Islamic values but are largely unwilling to give up the Western habits that have pervaded Egyptian life for decades.

For the "Miss Egypt" pageants, which began in 1985, such a climate proved fatal.

Last year, incensed by swimsuit competitions and the publicising of contestant's measurements, Sheikh Shamseddine's committee at Cairo's Al Azhar Mosque, the Muslim World's most influential religious institution, issued a fatwa that "Miss Egypt" offended Islam.

Fatwas from Al Azhar lack the force in Egypt, but the government normally follows them in cultural matters. It banned the pageant.

Organisers of this year's "Egypt's Ideal Woman" competition, however, thought they could do better.

Akram Galal, the chief organiser, set no physical requirements for the applicants, although they had to prove they were 18 to 26 years old and single, with Egyptian parents.

At the pageant, a jury of 19 movie stars, journalists, singers and other notables were told to judge contestants on general knowledge, culture, self-confidence, talent and ambition. Physical beauty was a minor consideration, they were told.

Still, by showtime the contestants, who had been told to wear only simple black dresses, had spruced themselves up with mid-thigh hemlines, jewelry and make-up. Those who professed singing or dancing talent were asked to perform on stage.

"It is not necessary to be veiled to be devout," insisted one contestant, Dalia Ghassan, 21, a dentist's daughter.

For now, no new fatwa has been issued, although Sheikh Shamseddine said, "there might be."

But the contest winner — 25-year-old Iham Ahmad Shawky — did not sit well with the audience, either.

As she was proclaimed winner, many in the audience stood and shouted "squash" — an Egyptian way of saying the contest was fixed. Ms. Shawky's sister was a famous TV announcer, and her family well-known.

## Shufat elections are referendum on peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — When residents of Jerusalem's only refugee camp vote later this month for Board members at the camp's youth centre, they'll be thinking about issues far more complex and volatile than sports for youngsters.

The election for the nine board seats pits a slate of candidates backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against those supported by Islamic groups. In essence, that turns the youth centre vote into a referendum on the Mideast peace talks under way in Washington.

The talks, now in their second stage in Washington, are supported by the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction and opposed by Islamic groups that reject any kind of peace with Israel.

Because Palestinians do not vote for their political leaders, each such small election takes on larger significance.

The balloting had been scheduled for Saturday, but on Friday both Fatah and the Islamic groups agreed to a delay until Dec. 28 after the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement said it needed more time to prepare.

As the vote approaches, PLO supporters in the Shufat camp are holding rallies, going to residents' houses and distributing calendars listing the candidates on their slate, known as the "Martyrs' Bloc."

Backers of Islamic groups have been giving lectures in the mosque to explain their rejection of the peace process.

"The election is ... an example for more elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, reflecting our own concern to prepare ourselves for the peace talks in Washington," said Talal Abu Afifeh, a senior Fatah leader.

Mr. Abu Afifeh said the election was a step along the same lines as the forming of political committees that the Palestinians hope will help lead to their independence.

He described the Shufat election as "practicing our own democracy."

The political committees are to try to organise such matters as health services, education and social work with the idea that they will help develop the infrastructure of a future state.

The election to the youth centre board is the first since 1987, when the uprising against Israel occupation began.

As a liberalising move, Israel recently has allowed elections for such groups as chambers of commerce in the West Bank and Gaza for the first time in years. But the Shufat elections had not been held earlier because camp youths have been busy in the uprising.

Shufat camp has about 9,000 residents, and the youth centre is sponsored by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which oversees aid programmes for Palestinian refugees.

On Wednesday, backers of Fatah held a nominating session, choosing eight of their own men and one from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, another PLO faction.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 9 killed in rain-related accidents in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Nine people died and 38 were injured in a bus accident and house collapses caused by three days of heavy rains in the Mediterranean city Alexandria, police and newspaper reports said Saturday. Police said a private bus carrying picnicers Friday overturned after it skidded on a rain-soaked street and the driver lost control. Five passengers were killed and 33 were injured. Also on Friday, two small houses collapsed in a working-class district of the city, Egypt's second largest, killing four people and injuring five, Cairo newspapers reported. The reports said five nearby houses were evacuated as unsafe. Rainstorms forced closure of Alexandria harbour for three days. The city and surrounding agricultural land have been battered by heavy rainfall, strong winds and high seas for most of the last fortnight. More than 7,000 acres cultivated with vegetables and cereals east and south of Alexandria were flooded last week after a drainage canal overflowed and embankments collapsed beside another one. The canal mishaps, widely blamed on poor maintenance aggravated by rains, destroyed 1,000 rural houses, home for about 6,000 people, but no casualties were reported.

### Kuwait starts security sweep

KUWAIT (R) — Road blocks were set up in Kuwait City Saturday as police began a sweeping security operation ahead of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit. Armed police set up check-points throughout the city in the early hours of the morning, halting traffic along usually fast motorways. Journeys which normally take five minutes took an hour. Police asked for identification and drivers' licences and checked car boots. Security sources said security measures would be intensified until the two-day summit, the first in Kuwait since it was liberated from Iraqi forces in February, ended on Dec. 25. Diplomats said some Palestinians and other nationalities whose countries voiced support for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait, had been recently stopped during the night and their licences confiscated.

### Iraqi war widows in demand

BAGHDAD (R) — War widows are in demand in Iraq. More than 1,000 men have recently tied the knot with widows to take advantage of cut-price loans offered to the women, the army newspaper Al Qadisiyah said Saturday. The 7,000-dinar loans (\$21,000 at official rates and about \$700 at black-market rates) will be revoked if marriage contracts are broken. Tens of thousands of Iraqi women were widowed in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war.

### Italy may buy warships it built for Iraq

ROME (R) — Italy may spend \$378 million on buying some of the 10 warships built by an Italian shipyard for Iraq but never delivered. The sum, spread out over the next two years, was included in a proposed government budget published on Friday. Italy's lower house will vote on the proposal next week. The 10 warships were built at a cost of 3.6 trillion lire (\$3 billion) by Italy's Fincantieri yards. Iraq had already paid for five when delivery was suspended because of a U.N. arms embargo during the Iran-Iraq war. Baghdad had come close to resolving the issue when its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 prompted Italy again to block their delivery. It was not immediately clear how many ships Italy intended to buy.

### Tremor jolts eastern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake measuring five degrees on the Richter scale jolted the eastern city of Kashmar in the Khorasan province Saturday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said there was no immediate word on casualties or damage that might have resulted from the 9:24 a.m. (0554 GMT) tremor. It said the epicentre of the quake was located 600 kilometres southeast of Tehran, and 210 kilometres south of Mashhad, capital of the Khorasan province that borders Afghanistan. An earthquake measuring five on the Richter scale can cause considerable damage, especially in populated areas. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy of a quake as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one whole number indicates 10 times more energy. Tremors are common in Iran. Several mild earthquakes were reported in recent weeks, including two on Nov. 28 that killed one person and wounded 70 in the northwestern part of the country. The November quakes panicked residents of that region, which was struck by a devastating temblor that killed up to 50,000 people in June 1990.

### Moroccan student jailed for 5 years in riots

FEZ (AP) — An Islamic fundamentalist student has been sentenced to five years in prison for battling Marxist students in street clashes, the official MAP news agency reported Friday. The student, identified as Abdoul Jalil Dghoughi, was found guilty of rioting and armed assault by a court Tuesday, the agency said. Dghoughi was arrested in the clashes Oct. 25 between the rival student groups. Similar outbreaks of violence have occurred in Kenitra and Oujda. A Fez court is also hearing charges of assault, destruction of property and brandishing weapons against 22 students arrested Dec. 4 following clashes with police. They were demanding that courses be taught in Arabic instead of French. Leftist student groups accuse the fundamentalists, who are gaining increasing influence due to perceived incorruptibility, of trying to take over the universities.

### Ethiopian group urges trial of detainees

ADDIS ABABA (R) — An independent Ethiopian human rights group Friday appealed for the speedy trial or release of 1,376 people detained by the country's new government. "We only ask for them to be brought to trial or released," the Ethiopian Human Rights Council Chairman Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam told Reuters. International human rights group Amnesty International earlier this week made a similar appeal for action on the issue of people detained since former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam's government was ousted by rebel groups in May.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Les Badoles  
17:35 ..... La culture en chansons  
18:10 ..... L'écrit des fans  
18:30 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Carnet de notes  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:35 ..... Empty Nest  
21:10 ..... Murder She Wrote  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... All the Rivers Run

### PRAYER TIMES

04:54 ..... Fajr  
06:16 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:26 ..... Dhuhr  
14:12 ..... Asr  
16:36 ..... Maghrib  
17:58 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 510740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 62785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 683236  
Baptist Lutheran Church Tel. 811225  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 2 / 17  
Dhahran ..... 7 / 17  
Dumana ..... 0 / 10  
Jordan Valley ..... 6 / 16  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Zaid Zaghoul ..... 638591  
Dr. Salameh Salameh ..... 776751  
Dr. Adel Dahdoub ..... 612177  
Dr. Hussein Haddad ..... 731267  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Purdows pharmacy ..... 776336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoski pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salim pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yaroub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

DEIR:  
Dr. Lutfi Al Shalabi ..... (-)  
Al Shams pharmacy ..... 775825  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Nashat Amara ..... (-)

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Response ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 771211  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 625800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Armenian Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 610230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64281/2  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64244/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Jabal Amman ..... 636140  
Malinas, J. Amman ..... 66417/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mustafar Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66617/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 66416/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511/26  
Anay, Marja ..... 89161/15  
Queens Alia Hospital ..... 62250/30  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

### ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)83323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)90560  
Rm. Sin Hospital ..... (09)98732  
Al Fikra Modern Hospital (09)99990

### DEIR:

Princess Banaa Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)72275  
Rm. Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQAHA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
16:10 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
22:40 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
18:30 ..... Beirut, Rome (AZ)  
18:50 ..... Moscow (SU)  
19:10 ..... Larnaca (CY)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
14:40 ..... Moscow (SU)  
18:30 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
19:35 ..... Beirut (ME)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
16:10 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
22:40 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

#### Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.

Apple ..... 600 / 500  
Banana ..... 300 / 450  
Banana (Muhannad) ..... 300 / 450  
Beans ..... 850 / 650  
Cabbage ..... 160 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 220 / 170  
Cucumber (large) ..... 180 / 120  
Cucumber (small) ..... 300 / 250  
Eggplant ..... 280 / 220  
Garlic ..... 800 / 700  
Grapes ..... 900 / 800  
Gourd ..... 500 / 400  
Lemon ..... 180 / 120  
Marrow (large) ..... 160 / 120  
Marrow (small) ..... 250 / 200  
Onion ..... 850 / 750  
Onion (dry) ..... 170 / 120  
Pepper (hot) ..... 320 / 280  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 450 / 400  
Potato ..... 300 / 250  
Sage ..... 200 / 180  
Spinach ..... 220 / 180  
Sweet melon ..... 270 / 230  
Tomatoes ..... 220 / 180  
Watermelon ..... 180 / 120



## Rain fills some dams to the brim

**By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter**  
AMMAN — The Department of Meteorology expects some rain Sunday, due to a shallow type of depression which formed over Sinai, with temperatures not exceeding nine degrees Celsius during the day time.

A department official told the Jordan Times that scattered showers were expected in the central and northern parts of Jordan Sunday but no more rain for Monday when it will remain cloudy with temperatures around normal.

The department earlier Saturday issued a bulletin in which it said that the northern regions of the country received as high as 82.5 millimetres of rain during the past three days but the amount was less towards the south as Ghor Safi and Aqaba received less than one millimetre of rain.

The rain of the past three days raised the water level in the King Tahlil Dam to 34 million cubic metres, up from 30 million after the earlier rain storm, according to Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah, Secretary-General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

He said that the latest readings of the water amounts in the dam, which has an 85-million-cubic-metre capacity, was taken Saturday.

Dr. Wishah told the Jordan News Agency, Petra that the Wadi Shueib and Kafrein dams, with combined total capacity of six million cubic metres were reported full to the brim but that the Sharhabil dam has only 570,000 cubic metres out of a capacity of 3.5 million and Wadi Al Arab dam has collected 3.5 million out of a total capacity of 17 million.



Ahmad Ibrahim Khreim

## Sweet dreams turn sour

**By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter**

AMMAN — A 28-year-old employee at the International Barter Company in Amman is now in police custody awaiting trial following an abortive attempt to steal JD 80,000.

Ahmad Ibrahim Khreim was apprehended by the police in Irbid, three days after he thought he got away with the cash, which he was supposed to deposit in a local bank in Amman on behalf of the company, according to a company official.

The official, who preferred anonymity to the Jordan Times, said that the company had entrusted Khreim with smaller amounts of cash on many previous occasions, and did not doubt the man's loyalty.

But in view of the large sum of money Khreim was carrying this time, and because he has failed to report to the company by end of the office hours, and as the enquiries about the man at the bank proved fruitless, the company management reported the matter to police, said the official.

He said that police immediately circulated the information and a description of Khreim to all police posts and border stations to prevent his escape from the country. The company also offered a good reward to anybody providing information leading to Khreim's capture or information about his whereabouts, he said.

Accordingly, the man's photo appeared in the Jordanian press and the police stepped up search and investigation that finally led to the man's capture, the official added.

He said that Khreim had made arrangements to transfer the JD80,000 sum to relatives in the occupied West Bank shortly before the police in Irbid caught him and retrieved the cash which was duly returned to the company in Amman.



**KEY TO PEACE** — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office Saturday with a delegation of churches for Middle East peace in the United States. The group heard the Crown Prince outlining the situation in the region and the current social and economic difficulties encountered by the Kingdom as a consequence of the Gulf war. The Crown Prince also outlined Jordan's policies with regard to various issues.

Discussions also covered the Palestinian people and the two sides voiced their support for the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination. In discussing the status of Jerusalem, the two sides laid stress on the need to present the holy city as a key to peace.

The American group plans to hold a seminar in Amman in the coming week to discuss the question "of Children of War."

## Friendship ties with Soviet people remain non-political

**By Odeh Odeh**  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The dismantling of the Soviet Union has jeopardised the existence of such institutions as the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and the news agencies of TASS and Novosti, according to Jordanian observers here.

But according to the president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, which was established in 1968, the society is a social and cultural entity grouping some 5,000 members whose aim is to promote Jordanian-Soviet relations.

"Ours is a non-governmental society which has played a major role in cementing ties between the Jordanian and Soviet people over the years," Mr. Bahjat

Talhouni said in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i daibes.

"The events on the political scene in the Soviet Union have nothing to do with the friendship society which deals with ties among people and not political entities," said Mr. Talhouni, a prominent member of the Upper House of Parliament and former Jordanian prime minister. "As long as the people of the two countries exist an agreement on cooperation in cultural and social matters will remain valid," Mr. Talhouni added.

The society's secretary-general, Khaled Hamshaw, said that the Soviet Union has established 139 friendship societies with various countries of the world. These societies were pursuing their efforts towards cementing ties among peoples re-

gardless of the political changes, Dr. Hamshaw noted.

Dr. Hamshaw believes that the society's role should be corroborated further to help contribute to the search for a lasting settlement to the Palestine problem.

TASS correspondent Genadi Maronim said that TASS, which was founded in 1918, established its office in Amman in 1965. "The staff continues to work as usual and nothing has happened yet to change the news agency's status," he said.

But Novosti news agency correspondent here Vladimir Bajat, said that his office shrunk with the termination of services of four Jordanians since last August.

He said he was continuing in his post, awaiting instructions about the future of the news agency's future plans to the region.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bedour awards Bowker JCO's shield

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director-General Jamal Bedour Saturday presented Australian Ambassador to Jordan, Robert Bowker, with JCO's shield as an expression of gratitude for the Australian government for its contribution to the Jordanian-Australian dry lands farming project. The 10-year project to which the Australian government has contributed a \$1,572,000 has been completed recently. The three-phase project aimed at increasing agricultural production in dry land through planting fodder and developing methods of planting grain and cereals.

#### Petra joins meetings in Morocco

RABAT (Petra) — The 19th conference of the general secretariat of the Federation Arab News Agencies (FANA) opened in Rabat Saturday. Representing the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at the three-day conference is its Director-General Ali Al Safadi.

#### CSCC opens branch in Sahab

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumers Corporation (CSCC) opened Saturday a new branch in Sahab city, south of Amman. The branch started offering services to beneficiaries the same day. With this branch, the corporation has now 27 branches all over the Kingdom.

#### Omra for Palestinians delayed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has delayed the date set for performing Al Omra pilgrimage to Mecca by Palestinians from Arab lands occupied in 1948 till further notice, the ministry source said. The source said the number of registered pilgrims from the occupied lands is 1,118. Those pilgrims, the source said, are still awaiting for the Saudi authorities to grant them pilgrimage visas.

#### Jordanian, Libyan engineers meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The boards of the Jordanian and the Libyan engineers associations met here in Amman Saturday. Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Ismail Breiwhish said that the two associations agreed to hold jointly specialised courses and seminars for engineers with the objective of exchanging expertise between the two countries. He said the JEA will send specialised teams to Libya to hold such courses and seminars.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussein at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jalal Oweqat at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Nadeem Mahsen and Halima Mahdi at Baladina Art Gallery, the Gardens Street.

#### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic, entitled "Integration between Islam and pan-Arabism" by the Islamic Judge of Sidon, Hassan Al Amin, at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

#### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Norma Rae" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

## ALECSO aims to implement pan-Arab biotechnology strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 15 Arab countries including Jordan Saturday opened a three-day conference on promoting biotechnology in the Arab World in order to help its development and solve many of the nation's problems.

The conference, organised by the Arab League Education Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) is to review working papers dealing with inter-Arab cooperation in the field of biotechnology, food security in the Arab World and matters related to cooperation with the regional office of the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) in building a pan-Arab biotechnology strategy.

Addressing the opening session, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi said that the Arab World needs biotechnology to deal with industrialisation, agriculture, energy and drug-manufacturing processes.

"The Arab World is facing a dangerous population explosion accompanied by growing needs

for food, water, energy, social services and other necessities which biotechnology techniques can help meet," the minister said.

The Arab countries have so far lacked coordination in investment, in the exploitation of natural resources and in dealing with such issues like desertification and the depletion of energy and water resources, noted Mr. Hindawi.

He said that by adopting a pan-Arab strategy in biotechnology and its application, the Arab World could accomplish a great deal in all these fields.

"The Arab World's interest in benefiting from modern biotechnology should attract educationists and schools which can incorporate biotechnology in medium and higher institutions' curricula," said the minister.

"Biotechnology is indeed beneficial in various realms of socio-economic development of the Arab World," he continued.

Referring to Jordan's own endeavours, the minister said that they have been progressing

through the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). Both of these institutions have been contributing most effectively to the development of the educational process in Jordan in a bid to help Jordanians cope with the social, cultural and scientific developments in the world.

Referring to the 1987 educational conference, he said that the Ministry of Education was going ahead with plans to implement the conference resolutions and recommendations by overhauling school textbooks and curricula and by providing higher training for teachers at all stages.

ALECSO representative Burai Hamzah told the meeting that the Arab League had been exerting efforts with Arab states in the field of employing biotechnology in the fields of agriculture, industry, medicine and energy as well as in the protecting of the environment from pollution.

Dr. Hamzah said that ALECSO has been calling on Arab countries to coordinate their efforts in this concern specially in

water and energy-related fields. "ALECSO is currently aiming to put into force a pan-Arab biotechnology strategy so as to ensure its benefits for all Arab countries," Dr. Hamzah added.

HCST Secretary-General Abdullah Touqan told the meeting that the council has been involved in studying the prospect of applying biotechnology in various development areas. "The HCST is also spearheading efforts in scientific research related to biotechnology in cooperation with Jordanian universities," Dr. Touqan said.

Countries represented at the meeting include: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania as well as ALECSO scientists and representatives of UNESCO office in Cairo and the United Nations Environment Programme (NEP) and the ALECSO office in Jordan.

ALECSO has organised the meeting in cooperation with the HCST in Amman.

## How can women speed development?

AMMAN (J.T.) — The role of women in developmental planning in the national economy and general productivity and the subject of training for women in the Arab World will be the main topics to be discussed in a three-day symposium opening in Amman Monday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The symposium, entitled "Women in Employment and Development of the Arab World" is expected to review 11 working papers dealing with women-related affairs, according to the pan-Arab Association for

Women in Development which is organising the conference in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Arab countries plus experts from ILO will be taking part in the meetings which are to be held at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman.

The symposium aims at identifying the extent of Arab women's contribution to planning of development projects, and women's role in shaping the future of the Arab World, according to the organisers.

They said that agreements and conventions concluded between

ILO and various other parties, including Arab countries, and the difficulties encountered in the process of their applications will be examined.

Legislations in Arab countries about the role of workers and women's involvement in socio-economic development will also come under scrutiny.

The pan-Arab association, created upon the initiative of Princess Basma, groups men and women from Arab countries concerned with women issues and aims at promoting the status of women in the Arab society and enabling women to assume lead-

ing roles in development.

Special attention is given to women in the Badia and rural regions of the Arab World and the association concerns itself with special studies and research work on women's affairs.

Among the association's various activities are seminars, conferences, informational functions and other programmes designed to orient the public on the role of Arab women.

The participants include delegations from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bahrain, Jordan, Palestine, the ILO and the Arab League.

## Development and Employment Fund finances new projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's Development and Employment Fund (DEF) has just approved JD 250,000 in loans to finance five income-generating projects to be carried out by associations and groups in urban and rural regions of Jordan.

The announcement was made Saturday by Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash, the fund's director, who said that the total cost of the five projects was JD 308,000 and the fund's contribution meant covering 81 per cent of the total cost. The projects were expected to create 210 new jobs.

The fund, created by the Ministry of Labour this year, aims at

providing soft loans to various groups and individuals wishing to start a business and seek to help those who acquired vocational training to open their own workshops.

Dr. Abu Ayash said that one of the projects, at a cost of JD 88,000, would be carried out by the Jordanian chapter of the Save the Children's Fund, and that the project aimed at producing children's food, bags, soap, and toys.

The project will create 35 new jobs for women.

The second project, to be carried out by the Society for the Care of the Soldiers Families, entails producing chickens and

chicken. A total of 140 families in the rural regions would benefit from the project which is expected to cost JD 150,000, Dr. Abu Ayash said.

The third project is for sheep fattening at Kafrein, near southern Shueib in the Jordan Valley region. The project is to be carried out by a local society in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The fourth project, also to be carried out in Kafrein by a charitable society, entails producing vegetables under plastic cover.

The project is expected to create jobs for five local families.

The fifth project is at Malih in the Madaba District and entails sheep fattening. The project will benefit 20 local families.

Dr. Abu Ayash said since March of 1991 and until now the DEF has provided JD 850,000 in soft loans to 15 different projects run by societies and groups creating jobs for 600 people.

Dr. Abu Ayash said that the fund also provided loans to finance 84 individual agricultural projects with a total cost of JD 70,000.

He said that 115 families in Jordan have benefited from the individual loans.

## Iraq's chief engineer cites impressive accomplishments with Jordanian help

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-general of the Arab Engineers Federation, Abdul Sattar Bawli, said Saturday most of the buildings, bridges roads, factories, oil refineries and telecommunications centres which were destroyed in Iraq by the allied forces during the Gulf war were repaired.

Mr. Bawli, who is also head of the Iraqi Engineers Association, said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that reconstruction works were carried out by Iraqi expertise with assistance from Jordanian engineers.

As a result of the reconstruction efforts, life returned to normal in Iraq, Mr. Bawli said. "Electricity, water and communication links are now operating normally," he added.

He said that about 75 bridges out of a total of 133 bridges

destroyed by the allied forces in the war were repaired.

He expressed his hope that the rest will be repaired next year.

Mr. Bawli lauded efforts exerted by the Iraqi engineers in reconstruction efforts noting that such achievements "show that the Arab Nation is in 'good shape' and is able to stand in the face of its enemies' ill designs and to build a good future for its sons."

Mr. Abdul Sattar is currently in Amman to take part in a seminar on Arab engineering capabilities. The two-day seminar, which was opened at the Professional Association Complex Saturday, is organised by the Arab Engineers Federation in cooperation with the Jordanian Engineers Association.

Delegations representing several Arab countries are taking part in it.

Jordan Engineers Association President Ismail Breiwhish delivered an address in which he stressed the importance of the

seminar at the present time "because of the important influence of engineers' role on the development process in the Arab World."

**The Grand Opening Of**  
**AL SHARQIA FOR EMBROIDERIES**

**AL SHARQIA**

The most up-to-date embroidery designs in line with the latest world fashion... Aghbari, Sima, Sayra and Brocard... loose embroidered garments (abayas and dashdashis) of various assortments... Oriental accessories of exquisite taste... new models and ideas all the time...

Al Sharqia for Embroideries  
Sweifeh - Al Omar Shopping Centre - near Clark  
Shoes (we are within Al Omar Shopping Centre).

DO NOT SEND ME FLOWERS for Christmas

I want a RING with my BIRTH STONE from

DAJANI JEWELLERS

Amra Hotel shopping center

**WOW!** \* WORLD RESOURCES  
A different world



By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
جوردن تايمز جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Consolidation of democracy

THE GOVERNMENT of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is expected to win this week's vote of confidence at the Lower House of Parliament with a comfortable margin. With the 17-member Constitution Bloc, the 16-member National Bloc and the six-member Independent Islamic group solidly behind the government, the stage is set for a solid vote of confidence. In addition to these votes it is expected that no less than eight other votes could come from others. All in all Sharif Zeid's government is poised to capture a majority of the House votes. The 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc, whose members are adamantly opposed to the ongoing peace process and who see in that process an exercise that violates their principles and ideals are projected to cast a negative vote or at best abstain. "Our main opposition to the government," stated one Muslim Brotherhood deputy Friday, "is its participation in the peace process."

One can understand the position of the Islamists but no one can dispute the fact that in its true sense Islam does advocate the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts provided that the terms of any settlement that emerges from such a peaceful path are legitimate, honourable and just. And since the Jordanian negotiating team is mandated to arrive at only honourable and equitable peace agreements, there can be no reasonable or legitimate excuse to cast doubts on the intentions of the government or its representatives to the negotiations. In this regard, one would expect the opposition to the government on this score to play the game democratically and with due respect for the vote of the majority. As His Majesty King Hussein had repeatedly warned, no bloc, whether on the right or the left, has a monopoly on what is righteous. Each and every school of thought in Parliament is expected to raise its voice for or against any government's policy in a context of mutual respect.

Yet, one would still take particular issue with the Muslim Brotherhood's intention to hold support for the new government when such a stance is examined against the backdrop of King Hussein's speech from the throne last week. Since that address constitutes the backbone of the new government's programme of action, whether internal or external, one is at loss to find a justification of any kind to cast a negative vote or even an abstaining vote especially when the speech is taken in its totality. If a unanimous vote of confidence cannot be attained, however, Jordanians of all walks of life expect and are entitled to have at least a consensus in favour of the new government.

Since it is a foregone conclusion that the government will gain the necessary vote of confidence, the big battle may actually begin after that hurdle is over and done with. The agenda of the current session of the House is full of issues and draft laws on which Parliament will have to act. How the members carry on their duties in that critical stage will have a great bearing on the continuation of the democratisation process. That is why we hope that parliamentary factions will exercise sound judgement and extend mutual respect and due tolerance for each other in order to consolidate parliamentary democracy in the country. The peace negotiations may take a long time to bear fruit. Meanwhile the consolidation of democracy must be the top priority for our esteemed deputies.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday criticised President George Bush for claiming that the United States can do nothing to solve the Cypriot question, settle the conflict in Yugoslavia and force Israel to accept, abide by and implement U.N. resolutions. The paper said that the Americans waged an aggression on Iraq in the name of the international legitimacy and for the sake of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions and to protect Kuwait and end Iraq's occupation of the Gulf country. But, the paper said, the U.S. president seems to be unable to interfere in other matters, other countries' occupations and other wars where thousands of people are killed. It said that only Mr. Bush's hatred of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people is driving him to maintain an embargo on Iraq and it was the same hatred that drove him to launch a war of genocide on Iraq with the help of 30 of his allies. The Americans are maintaining their hostile stand against the Palestinian people, condoning Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and delaying Israel's pullout of Arab lands in implementation of U.N. resolutions passed a quarter of a century ago, the paper continued. It said that Mr. Bush claims that his country is unable to force the Israelis to withdraw from occupied land, but was quick to wage war on the Iraqi people for Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The president is watching thousands killed in Yugoslavia, but he is not interested and does not want the international legitimacy to be implemented, the paper continued. It said that the Americans have direct interest in crushing the Arab nation and pleasing Israel and that is why they waged war on Iraq, but they have no interest in Yugoslavia or Cyprus and so they are passive this time, not urging any ally to join it in a devastating war nor taking any single step towards forcing the Israelis to comply with United Nations resolutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised calls on the Ministry of Supply to resume imports of meat by aircraft, to meet the growing needs in Jordan of this basic commodity. Fahd Al Fanek said that Jordan, a poor country, had in the past committed a grave blunder draining its economy by importing meat by plane from Europe, a costly operation which rich Gulf countries did not resort to in order to satisfy their local needs.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Economic adjustment — nothing new

THE subjection of the Jordanian national economy to a comprehensive adjustment programme, approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, is not something new, and should not give rise to negative expectations whatsoever.

The economies of around 46 developing countries have already undergone such a programme. The efforts of some of those countries were successful. They recovered and resumed economic growth. Another group of countries failed to overcome their economic crisis. It all depended on the existence of the national will to perform the adjustment, implement all the right policies, and take all the necessary measures required for making the programme work as intended and achieve its planned objectives. Moreover, Jordan itself has its own practical experience in this respect. Jordan adopted an economic adjustment programme as of April 1989, in the aftermath of the economic crisis of 1988, and for 15 months after that, extending up to the eruption of the Gulf crisis in the summer of 1990.

The Jordanian economy scored a higher degree of success during that crucial period than any other national economy in

similar conditions was able to score. In a relatively short period of time, Jordan resumed positive growth of its gross domestic product in real terms, reduced the huge deficit in its balance of trade, improved the deficit in its current account, achieved the stability of the Jordan dinar's exchange rate and started to rebuild the depleted reserves of gold and foreign exchange with the Central Bank.

The programme however, did not make sufficient progress in pushing new investments to take off. Perhaps it was because of the economic and monetary shock, which Jordan witnessed in the autumn of 1988, and the political and security shock, which followed in the spring of 1989, were so tense that investors and businessmen in the private sector needed more time to make sure that the Jordanian government will actually adhere to the programme in a very serious and consistent manner until it reaches the desired goals.

Before reasonable degree of certainty was restored, the Gulf crisis took Jordan by surprise. It interrupted the programme, altered its very basic foundations and disturbed once more all its balances.

Now Jordan finds itself in need to resume the adjustment process, which was initiated in April 1989 and gave very good results before it was suspended in August 1990.

The process, therefore, is by no means new. It is a tested course of action which proved its effectiveness. If Jordan fails to restart the effort now, in a systematic and organised manner and without wasting time, it will definitely have to do it later on, under more difficult circumstances and at much higher social cost and hardships, under the harsh pressure of the market forces.

We have all the reasons to expect the success of the renewed adjustment endeavour. There is no alternative to more self-sufficiency and doing away with foreign grants and external borrowing as a way of life. We have to balance our relations with the world on sound and sustainable basis and put our house in order, once and for all.

Those who gave their explicit or implied approval of the economic adjustment programme, which was adopted during the period 1989-1990, have no justification in opposing the programme now. They include the majority of the Parliament members.

# The price we need to pay for peace

By Susan Hattis Rolef

THE nonsense surrounding the Washington talks isn't the only indication that something has gone amiss with the peace process. Something very basic is wrong with it: the Arab side seems to expect that peace will be imposed on Israel, while the Israeli government seems to believe that peace can be achieved without Israel giving up an inch of land.

This doesn't mean that the Arab side, including Syria, has not reconciled itself to Israel's existence, or that the majority of Israelis do not understand that the peace-for-peace formula is nothing but an empty slogan. All it means is that, at the moment, the two sides' frame of mind does not seem to augur well for significant progress.

There is good reason to believe that the Arab attitude to negotiations would change the moment the Israeli government indicated that, in return for a true peace — including all the necessary security provisions and full Israeli economic integration in the region — it would be willing to withdraw from most of the territories occupied by it in June 1967.

For many Israelis, this might in

itself be enough reason for Israel to declare that it accepts the territories-for-peace formula in principle. Others view the mere suggestion that Israel should offer to withdraw from any territories, for whatever reason, nothing less than treason.

The reasons given for why Israel should reject the mere thought of conceding territories are many and varied. "God promised us this land, and it is sacrilegious for Israel to give up any part which has come under its control," say the religious zealots.

"Israel came to possess Judea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights in the course of a defensive war which it did not initiate. Therefore, it is the aggressors (i.e. the Arabs) who should be called upon to make concessions in return for peace, not the victims (i.e. Israel)," say the know-it-alls.

"There is no case in history in which peace has been attained in return for territories," claim the self-proclaimed historians. They keep referring to the case of Germany and Czechoslovakia, as if history started and ended with the Munich Agreement.

This is a miserable example because most of the world doesn't see Israel in the role of Czechoslovakia, but in the Germany, which claimed that the Sudetenland was part of Fatherland, just as Israel claims that West Bank and the Gaza Strip are part of the Jewish homeland.

There are dozens of peace treaties which included provisions for land being ceded by one state to another. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, for one, was based on the land-for-peace formula.

Finally, several of the Likud's princes keep saying "No state enters negotiations showing all its cards," hinting that after some hard bargaining the Likud government might be willing to give up territories. This is no less than a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts, since it is no secret that the Likud and its leaders are committed to "Greater Israel." Ask Yizhak Shamir.

The fact remains that if there is any chance for peace between Israel and its neighbours, it will have to involve an Israeli relinquishing of territories — though nobody is suggesting that Israel should give up a single inch of land before it is absolutely certain that it will receive peace in re-

turn. The Arabs have moved from a total rejection of Israel's right to exist to grudgingly accepting the fact of its existence. This happened not because they have suddenly turned into lovers of Zion, but because they have come to realise that they are incapable of getting rid of Israel without endangering their own existence, just as David Ben-Gurion predicted back in the 1930s. However, the majority of Arab states state very openly that only if Israel withdraws from the territories it occupied in 1967 will this acquiescence in Israel's existence be turned into peace. They speak of the territories which Israel occupied in 1967 — not those allocated to it in the 1947 partition plan, nor those acquired by it during 1948-49 war.

But beyond the fact that Israel cannot have both peace and the territories, there are numerous other reasons why continuing to hold onto the territories at any cost is not in Israel's national interest.

One of the problems was well expressed at the recent Tebiya Conference when the "voluntary transfer of the Arabs" was raised, and rejected by a vast majority. However, what Tebiya has failed to explain is how Israel can continue to be a Jewish state with a

vast Palestinian minority which refuses to be part of it living in its midst, unless it is willing to see this Jewish state turn into a non-democratic apartheid state. There are only two ways to avoid Israel turning into such a state: transfer or partition. The first is both immoral and impossible; the second is painful, but possible.

There are also economic and social considerations involved. It is no secret that the Jews have never found the West Bank or Gaza particularly attractive, neither in Mandatory time nor since 1967. Outside a relatively small number of ideologically motivated settlers, Israelis have had to be bribed into moving into the territories with a cheap housing and "quality of life."

This costing the state billions of shekels which are sorely needed for immigrant absorption, creating jobs for close to 200,000 unemployed and resolving the economic difficulties of local councils and municipalities responsible for the welfare of hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens of all religions and ethnic groups.

In addition, there isn't a single serious economist who does not agree that what the Israeli economy needs more than anything else is peace — to end the Arab boycott and the security risks which foreign investors are unwilling to take, as well as to

enable Israel to integrate into the Middle East economy and to start spending a much lower portion of its budget on security. There can be no peace without Israel's relinquishing territories and, consequently, there is a direct link between Israel's economic welfare and its giving up territories.

There is also a social consideration. Many sociologists have attributed the frightening rise of violence within Israeli society to the persistent Palestinian violence. Israelis have been subjected to as a result of the intifada, and the violence which Israelis have been forced to use against the Palestinians in an attempt to quell it.

Violence is indivisible. You cannot have a violent relations with your neighbours while preventing violence from penetrating your own home. Violence cannot be stopped by force. Only peace will stop it — which brings us back again to the question of land for peace.

A price will have to be paid for peace, and the price the Arabs demanding in territories. If the merchandise is available, the price must be paid. If the merchandise is not available, then God help us — for the territories will not.

The writer is editor of the Labour Movement monthly: Spectrum. The above article was reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

## What does it take to have Resolution 3379 rescinded?

By Judy Aita

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. announcement earlier this month that it will push to gain repeal of the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism before the General Assembly suspends its session Dec. 17 reflects the growing support for the repeal effort among U.N. member states.

U.S. officials, both publicly and in quiet diplomatic contacts, have argued since Resolution 3379's passage in 1975 that it has damaged the U.N. credibility and kept it from playing a more prominent role in the Middle East peace process.

Now, with the apparent collapse of the communist bloc, the rise of human rights consciousness in many parts of the world, and an increasing number of states recognising Israel, the United States feels the time is ripe for repeal of the measure. And earlier this month, with Israel's assistance, it drafted a resolution calling for repeal.

President George Bush helped lay the groundwork for the move in a September address to the General Assembly in which he declared equating Zionism "with the intolerable sin of racism is to twist history. By repeating this resolution unconditionally, the United Nations will enhance its credibility and serve the cause of peace."

Theo on Dec. 3, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler announced that Secretary of State James Baker had instructed the State Department "to press actively to accomplish the nullification of the Zionism is racism determination in the United Nations General Assembly... by Dec. 17, the end of the current General Assembly session."

Resolution 3379 was passed in 1975 under pressure from Arab and communist nations after a debate marked by anti-Semitic rhetoric. It stated that the General Assembly "determines that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination" and passed — despite heated opposition by



the United States and others — by a vote of 72 to 35 with 32 abstentions.

Over the years, U.S. and Israeli officials often stressed that a moral victory of almost nullifying the resolution would not be a satisfactory solution — even if the number of votes supporting its position was substantially higher than in 1975.

Last year at a conference marking the anniversary of the resolution's passage and rally for its repeal, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering pointed out that while the U.S. emphasises the illegitimacy of the resolution, "we have been careful not to bring the issue prematurely to a vote feeling that any lost vote would be a reiteration of the resolution rather than its overturning."

The first overt move in the repeal process came in December 1989 when Vice President Dan Quayle visited the United Nations and told reporters that the United States would begin a move to repeal the resolution.

"It will help reestablish the stature and moral authority of the U.N.," Mr. Quayle said. "It will go a long way to sending a very positive message to our Congress, to the American people..." Citing the U.N.'s constructive role in Namibia and Afghanistan, he

said that the United Nations "can never fulfill the dreams of its founders until it regains its reputation for moral integrity."

U.S. officials at the same time began consulting actively with the General Assembly delegates from the 35 countries that opposed the 1975 resolution, urging their support for the repeal and soliciting their views regarding cooperation on appropriate strategy and time. They also talked with representatives of countries which originally voted for the resolution but which subsequently acquired new governments and may have changed their views, with delegates from countries which abstained or were absent in 1975, and with representatives of the 36 countries which have since joined the United Nations.

The new resolution drafted by the United States and Israel says simply that "the General Assembly decided to revoke the determination contained in its Resolution 3379 of Nov. 10, 1975."

The U.S. repeal effort gained a major boost when Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told the assembly Sept. 24 that "we should once and for all leave behind the legacy of the ice age like the obnoxious resolution equating Zionism to racism."

Other world leaders also called

for the repeal during the assembly's opening debate. Brazilian President Fernando Collor said that "we believe the application of labels which have exacerbated mistrust among the parties should be reconsidered."

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Victor Vukov noted that his country "deems it appropriate that a thorough revision be made of some outdated views and resolutions of the United Nations bearing the birthmarks of ideological confrontation, notably the notorious General Assembly Resolution 3379."

Poland's Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski pointed out that "the Solidarity movement and the new government have always been against that resolution. Its recession has been long overdue."

President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia went to Jerusalem and publicly announced he was reversing his nation's position on the issue.

U.S. officials say they now have 40 co-sponsors for the repeal resolution and pledges of 71 votes. If the resolution is handled as a regular assembly resolution, 84 will be needed for passage.

Opposition to the repeal remains. On Dec. 5, the group of Arab states announced that it was opposed to the raising of the Zionism issue. Lebanese Ambassador Khalil Makkaw, chairman of the group, said at the press conference that such a move to revoke previous resolutions of the assembly is, in principle, "a very serious matter."

The Arab group may ask the assembly to consider the resolution as a critical issue. A simple majority will be needed to accept that premise. If that occurs, then the repeal resolution will need a two-thirds majority, or 111 votes.

Only one assembly resolution has been rescinded. In 1950, the assembly abolished a 1946 resolution urging members to curtail diplomatic relations with Spain because of its support for Hitler during World War II. — United States Information Agency.

## LETTERS

### Happy birthday, RJ!

To the Editor:

UPPERMOST on one's mind on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of Royal Jordanian Airlines, which falls on Sunday, is the heroic role it had played during the Gulf war when the country was literally besieged, cut off from the rest of the world and abandoned by friend and foe alike. Suffice to recall how RJ kept Amman's links and bridges with the rest of humanity open under grueling conditions, in order to arrive at the solemn verdict that Jordan without RJ would be simply suicidal from every point of view. Seen against such a backdrop, Jordan's national and strategic interests require a greater appreciation of the Jordanian airliner and a stronger support to what it is still trying to do for the entire Kingdom.

What better occasion to commemorate today's 28th anniversary of the airline than for the entire country to say in one voice thank you RJ and thank you all who man it and plan and execute its policies and practices in these troubling times.

Waleed M. Sadi,  
Amman, Jordan.

### Begging by choice?

To the Editor:

Begging... This profession, if we say call it so, has been taking place in every community since the dawn of civilisation. The socio-economic imbalance in any society could be blamed for creating beggars. Problem is, even if we believe that the poor is begging because he cannot find any work to do, life often proves the contrary. Even when they can support themselves, beggars do not stop their habits. Never did we hear of a beggar who stopped begging.

They get used to begging, which makes them think of nothing but the easy money they make and the free food and clothes they get from people here and there. They are so obsessed by the way they live that they don't change it to the better even if they can afford it.

The only thing to cheer them up seems to be money. Coins and more coins which come from kind-hearted people who believe they must help the less fortunate.

These people need very serious help from us and the social service workers to overcome their feelings of insecurity.

We must help them help themselves. But how? The answer must be found by the ones responsible to protect the community from such collapse and human abuse.

Suleima Kayyali,  
P.O. Box 8395,  
Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Negotiators fine-tune proposal

(Continued from page 1)

Friday that the Israelis had acknowledged the two-track approach and agreed to be reached that the joint delegation would be composed of two parties — a Jordanian and a Palestinian one.

The Israelis continue to insist on frequent plenary meetings to emphasize the joint nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Jordanians and Palestinians, however, want these meetings to be convened only at the request of the three negotiating parties (i.e. Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli).

The Israelis reject the Jordanian-Palestinian formula because they say it would give the Arab side a "veto" over the holding of plenary meetings.

The second major point of contention preventing an agreement is that the question of the legal authority of the individual tracks in relation to the joint delegation. The Jordanians and Palestinians want the two separate tracks to have the power to conclude agreements. Israel, trying to dilute the authority behind the Palestinian track, says the joint delegation should only have the power to ratify agreements after the individual tracks conclude negotiations.

The meeting of the joint delegation Saturday was expected to formulate another common proposal to present at a scheduled meeting Monday in the heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli delegations on Sunday was cancelled Friday, according to Jordanian delegates.

The full joint Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations have not yet met and will not meet until the issues of the two tracks and the procedural framework are resolved because the issue for the three parties has emerged as the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ironically, observers say, even before the delegations have entered the negotiating rooms at the U.S. State Department they are negotiating the central issue of the conflict — the identity of the Palestinian people.

The ambiguity in the American letters of assurance sent to each of the parties to the talks has forced the Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis from the onset to define the Palestinian identity.

"This issue of separation is not one of procedural wrangling as some would like to characterize it," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

"It is a question of principle and the way it is resolved will certainly prejudice the future of deliberations and agenda items," he added.

The Palestinian leader on negotiations, Yasser Arafat, said the joint delegation as a distinct and separate entity

to underscore their view that the solution to their problem must also be as a separate entity and not in the context of Jordan.

The Israelis have resisted efforts to give practical shape to the principle of the two tracks in order to emphasize their point that the solution in the Palestinian problem must be in the overall Jordanian context and not as a separate entity.

AP adds: Week one of Arab-Israeli peace talks ended with both sides describing themselves reasonably satisfied, even slightly hopeful. There was no tangible progress to explain these feelings — a procedural snarl prevented the start of one set of talks — yet both sides agreed to meet again Monday.

Why are they coming back? The simple answer is there's no reason not to; there's more to be gained by talking than by walking away.

Neither side expected results from three days of talks after 43 years of war. On the contrary, most delegates appeared content with the pace.

Lebanon's chief negotiator Subeik Chammeh, talking to the Israelis, quoted the late British statesman Winston Churchill ordering his driver to "go slow, I'm in a hurry."

The atmosphere among Israelis and Syrians, whose armies are the most powerful in the region, was far less cordial. It progressed during the week from frosty to "creaking of smiles," in the words of Israeli spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu. But there were no handshakes and no joint coffee breaks.

Still, asked how long his country would stay, Syrian delegation chief Muawaffak Alfai replied that "as long as it is needed and as long as there is hope."

The Washington talks were preceded last month by a gathering in Madrid that was a formal start for what is expected to be months and probably years of negotiations.

"The real difference is we are not saying only that we want our territory back," said Mr. Alfai. "We are ready to fulfill both sides of the equation."

Israelis are mistrustful of Syrian intentions, but are also intrigued by the idea of sitting across from their most implacable enemies. Israeli delegation leader Yossi Ben-Aharon described the talks as "fascinating."

They have a mutual interest in pleasing the United States by keeping the talks going. Syria, having lost the patronage of its biggest military and economic supporter — the Soviet Union — is eager to forge new ties with the United States.

Israel, meanwhile, needs billions in U.S. loan guarantees for settling hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

## Who got what from the EC summit and at what price

By Simon Alterman  
Reuter

MAASTRICHT — All 12 European Community leaders put their names to the Maastricht agreement and all 12 declared themselves happy.

Here is what each of them achieved (and what they didn't):

Helmut Kohl (Germany) — Secured a decisive step forward on EC integration, binding Germany more tightly to the community through political and monetary union, tough economic criteria for joining the future single currency, which, like the future European central bank, will be modelled on Germany's inflation-fighting principles, greater powers for the European Par-

liament, strengthened cooperation on immigration, asylum and international crime-fighting through the new Europol force.

He didn't get as much as he wanted for the European Parliament and had to settle for judicial and police matters being handled by inter-governmental cooperation rather than through the community's mechanisms.

John Major (Britain) — Obtained his opt-out clause (or opt-in clause, as he calls it) for the final stage of monetary union, removed the word "federal" from the treaty, ensured that foreign policy and police matters are handled in separate inter-governmental "pillars" and not under EC rules, prevented the EC as a whole gaining new pow-

ers on labour law, won new powers for the European Parliament to control the European Commission and for the European Court of Justice to fine states which don't respect its judgments.

He failed to avoid isolation on the opt-out clause for monetary union and over social policy.

Francois Mitterrand (France) — Secured the monetary union deal France has long coveted, including a commitment to a 1999 deadline for a single currency, helped conceive the embryo of a future European defence independent of the U.S., another long-standing French goal.

He didn't get an interventionist article on EC industrial policy or extensive majority voting on foreign policy.

Felipe Gonzales (Spain) — Obtained the binding commitments he sought for greater transfers of EC funds to poorer countries.

Guilio Andreotti (Italy) — Won the first commitment to monetary union with a strict timetable he had been working for since the two Rome summits of a year ago.

The price he had to pay was accepting some tough performance targets for Italy's deficit-ridden economy if it is to join the future single currency, albeit with some flexibility.

Wilfried Martens (Belgium) — Gave the European defence debate a push towards a greater EC role and blocked any decision on the seat of the European Central Bank when it looked as though

the price might be to confirm Strasbourg as the home of the European Parliament at the expense of Brussels.

Jacques Santer (Luxembourg) — Saw the draft political union treaty his government painstakingly negotiated as EC president in the first half of 1991 emerge as the clear basis for the Maastricht deal.

Poul Schluter (Denmark) — Obtained a protocol allowing Denmark to hold a referendum before the final stage of a single currency and another allowing it to continue to ban foreigners, particularly Germans, from buying holiday homes in Denmark.

Charles Haughey (Ireland) — Secured protection of Irish neut-

rality even as the EC adopts a defence role, will benefit from the extra funds for poorer countries and obtained a protocol allowing Ireland to retain its ban on abortion.

Constantine Mitsotakis (Greece) — Will be another beneficiary from the money for poorer countries, obtained a promise that Greece can negotiate entry to the Western European union, the future defence arm of the EC.

Anibal Cavaco Silva (Portugal) — Will also benefit from the extra cash most important of all, the Maastricht deal removed the threat that the treaty talks would drag on until the Portuguese EC presidency starting January 1.

## U.S. keeps a wary eye on EC union

By Laurence McQuillan  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States is keeping a wary eye on the European Community's political and monetary union, fearful that it may diminish America's influence in Europe.

Bush administration officials say U.S. self-interest dictates a sceptical, protective behind-the-scenes attitude even though diplomacy dictated a much more cordial public reaction on Washington's part.

"We welcome the historic steps towards economic and political union," President George Bush said in a statement summarising the official U.S. view of a political and monetary accord approved by an EC summit early on Wednesday.

"Europe's steps towards unity will strengthen our renewed Atlantic alliance," Mr. Bush said, adding that a strengthened EC "has a vital role to play in ensuring a stable and prosperous Europe."

Mr. Bush went out of his way, however, to underscore a need for continued U.S. presence on the continent, saying: "NATO will remain the essential forum for consultation among its members and the venue for... security and defence commitments."

In private, U.S. officials say the move towards historic harmony among the 12 EC member states is feeding fears that Washington — which has wielded dominant influence in Europe since World War II — is doomed to the role of outsider.

"Our concerns are economic,"

said one Bush administration official. "Our reason for being a force in Europe has been based on the Soviet threat. Without that, the argument (for continued U.S. clout) is thin."

"Our concerns are economic. Our reason for being a force in Europe has been based on the Soviet threat. Without that, the argument (for continued U.S. clout) is thin."

## NEWS ANALYSIS

The accord reached at Maastricht, Netherlands, formally to be signed in several weeks, goes well beyond introducing a single currency, the European Currency Unit (ECU), by 1999 at the latest.

It also calls for establishing a common foreign and security policy with joint actions to protect the bloc's interests — thus

pushing the continent a long way towards the goal of an integrated Europe that has tantalised European-union visionaries for over three decades.

The accord also raises the prospect of a common defence that would be compatible with the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

All this has set off alarms in Washington, according to administration officials.

Mr. Bush, at the NATO summit in Rome last month, argued that the uncertainty hanging over the future course of the Soviet Union underscores the need for the United States to remain a strong force in Europe.

The current dispute over whether the Kremlin-centred Soviet Union still exists and whether President Mikhail Gorbachev still has a job in light of last weekend's Slavic commonwealth agreement feeds into Mr. Bush's arguments.

Several U.S. officials said the longer-term outlook on that front is much murkier, however.

"If the hardliners suddenly came back in power, everything would be different," one said, "but barring that, the military threat appears unlikely."

Without the threat of an East-West confrontation looming, administration officials acknowledge that the days of a strong American presence in Europe could be limited.

While the United States can buy some time from the fact that a fully unified Europe faces many obstacles, U.S. foreign policy will have to adapt to the long-range approach that unification is ultimately inevitable.

## Scant U.S. media attention

(Continued from page 1)

properties," Mr. Harrison said. A small news report in the inside pages of the Washington Post said a Northern Virginia businessman was sentenced Friday in federal court in Alexandria to four months in a halfway house and fined \$5,000 for illegally building a satellite system for Jordan that would have been able to secretly intercept phone calls throughout the Middle East.

Roger N. Crummer, 59, had been paid \$1.47 million by the Jordanian government to design the device, the newspaper said, adding that the satellite system was neither completed nor delivered.

The Centreville resident pleaded guilty in October to illegally designing and manufacturing an eavesdropping device for export and lying to a government agency when an investigation into the Viper project began earlier this year, the Washington Post released reported.

"Novacom and Dilligas Trading Co. Inc., the two Northern Virginia corporations owned by Crummer, also were fined \$5,000 each."

The news of Crummer's arrest

send out its messages by way of news conferences and fax machines instead of demonstrations. Early during the negotiations, the group faced the news media at the Grand Hotel, where the Palestinian delegation is staying.

This week, the group held its news conference outside the State Department "to applaud the (Palestinian) delegation's decision not to meet with the Israelis except as an independent delegation."

The exterior of the State Department was the scene of another news conference, this one called by the Coalition for Jewish Concerns. Rabbi Avraham Weiss, president of the group, and a small group prayed for peace in the Mideast, secure borders for Israel and normalised relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Few people were around to hear Weiss's message, which was delivered before 9 a.m.

At midweek, the U.S. Inter-religious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, a group of 1,500 American Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, held a news conference and an interfaith service to promote "the centrist positions" of the three groups as they related to the Middle East.

"The one thing that we don't need," said Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, an officer of the group, "is a bloody public relations fight over the vexing issues in the Middle East."

It is people like that woman, as well as the U.S. and other governments, that the groups were hoping to reach with their demonstration.

"The entire world has focused its attention on the Middle East," said Gilbert Kahn, executive director of the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews. "It is our responsibility to focus attention on the plight of Syrian Jews."

Otherwise the district sidewalks and usual news conference throngs have been uncharacteristically quiet, much like the peace talks themselves.

Palestinian-Americans for Peace with Justice has opted to

urged the Bush administration to get involved. It was over in an hour, after representatives were denied an audience at the nearby Syrian embassy.

A Palestinian-American group and a Jewish coalition chose the street outside of the State Department to make their points — what different hours. Other groups reshuffled the street approach a promenade, opting for indoor news conferences.

The demonstration at the Syrian embassy served a purpose for at least one woman, who said she worked at the Chinese embassy and was just across from the rally. "Huh, there are Jews in Syria," the woman said. "I didn't know that."

It is people like that woman, as well as the U.S. and other governments, that the groups were hoping to reach with their demonstration.

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

**THE PROFESSIONALS**  
ALWAYS CHOOSE  
THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT  
FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR  
SERVICES AND DELIVERIES. CUSTOMS  
CLEARANCE, TICKETS  
(AND) RESERVATIONS.

**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**  
TEL: 604676 604696  
P.O. BOX 7806  
AMMAN

**CROWN**  
INT'L EST.  
Packing, shipping,  
forwarding, storage,  
clearing, door-to-door  
service  
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world  
Tel: 664090  
Fax: 690652  
P.O. Box 926487 Amman

**4 Rent & Sale**  
Many villas and apartments  
are available for rent and  
sale - furnished or unfurnished.  
Also many lots of land are  
available for sale.  
For further details, please  
call

**Abdoun Real Estate**  
Tel: 810605, 810609  
Fax: 810520

**RENT**  
Distinctive  
Villas Apartments Flats  
IN ROYAL WEST AMMAN

real estate  
"R" us

Just call NIDAL  
693037

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN**

CALL SOHA AT

Saudi Real Estate  
687821/22

**FOR RENT**  
DELUXE & SUPER DELUXE  
APARTMENTS VILLAS  
& SEMI VILLAS  
GET THE BEST AT  
JAMAL REAL ESTATE  
JUST CALL  
835859

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best  
Chinese Restaurant  
in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near  
Alyyah Girls School  
Take-away service  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
7:00 - Midnight  
Tel: 638966

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Mecca Street, Yarmouk  
Engineers' Housing  
Estate, near Kilo  
Supermarket  
Mongolian Barbecue for  
Lunch Friday only  
Tel: 818214  
Come and taste our  
specialties  
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30  
p.m.  
6:30 - Midnight

**PEKING RESTAURANT**  
AUTHENTIC CHINESE  
CUISINE  
elegant  
colorful atmosphere  
open daily 12:00 - 3:30  
p.m.  
6:30 - Midnight

**MANDARIN RESTAURANT**  
Special Chinese Foods  
Skilled Chinese Chefs  
Open 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Take away is available  
Wadi Saqra Road  
near Philadelphia Hotel  
Tel: 661922, Amman

Once Tasted  
Always Loved

**CHINA RESTAURANT**  
AQABA  
CHINESE FOOD  
Open daily  
12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30  
Tel: 03 - 314415

**Bonita**  
Restaurant & Tapa  
International Cuisine  
Spanish Specialities  
Open Lunch & Dinner  
For Reservation, Tel: 638966  
Don't forget Tel: 638966

**Rosenthal**  
Porcelain, Silver  
& Crystal  
Jabal Amman  
2nd Circle  
Tel: 641816, 642397

**Sweiss**  
Silver & Chocolates  
Abdoun Circle  
Tel: 823000

**STUDIO HAIG**  
Professional Quality in  
1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at  
our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free Metal Frame 13 x 18 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays  
Bank. Phone: 644042  
Swedish tel: 823891

**LOBBY LOUNGE**  
AL SABIL  
DAILY PIANO  
ENTERTAINMENT

**DAROTEL**  
Amman - Tel: 668193  
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax: 603434  
Tel: 23886 DAROTEL JO  
Ideal Residence For  
Expatriates and  
Businessmen

**For the best**  
for your  
MONEY  
ADVERTISE  
in the  
Jordan Times



## HOROSCOPE



# U.S. economy seems to be grinding to a standstill

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy, dragged down by huge budget deficits and cautious consumer spending, appears to be grinding to a standstill.

The agonising slowness of economic growth — or perhaps the absence of it — together with the possible reemergence of the recession, has forced the Bush administration to go into high gear to come up with a growth programme.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and White House economic adviser Michael Boskin told the Senate Finance Committee

this week that economic activity is continuing to slow.

"The data available thus far for the fourth quarter suggest that growth, if any will be slight," said Mr. Boskin, who added that a consensus by private forecasters of a 1.3 per cent fourth-quarter growth rate was too high.

Some analysts believe that the economy could show negative marks when the fourth quarter figures are tallied up, adding to even more pressure on the administration and the Congress as the 1992 election year begins.

More positively, inflation

seems to be under control. The Labour Department said its producer price index that measures wholesale prices went up only 0.2 per cent last month after a big upward bump of 0.7 per cent in October that had briefly raised inflation fears.

Consumer prices in November also posted a modest increase, rising a moderate 0.4 per cent, according to figures released Friday. So far this year, consumer prices have increased at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent, compared to an increase of 6.4 per cent during the same period last year.

The policymaking body of the Fed that calls such shots, the Federal Open Market Committee, meets next week and many analysts believe that a rate cut will be ordered.

This, however, is by no means a sure thing.

Earlier this week, Federal Reserve Vice Chairman David Mulins tried to dampen pessimism about the U.S. economy by saying things were "not all that bleak" and saw signs of growth picking up by late spring.

His comments suggested to some that the Fed was not about to lower interest rates again quickly, after cutting the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other for loans, by a quarter of a percentage point last Friday to 4.5 per cent.

Many believe that the key to

the future is the well-being of consumers. In this regard, there was little to suggest Friday that a major change in their cautious approach to buying had occurred.

The Labour Department said that average U.S. weekly earnings rose a slight 0.2 per cent after inflation in November, after a 0.7 per cent fall in October.

Economists say the meagre improvement in consumers' buying power is a major deterrent to spending, which would help fuel a recovery.

The Congressional Budget Office said recently the U.S. economy will remain "anemic at best" through next spring.

But longer-term prospects for the economy may brighten, with an influential business group predicting moderate growth in 1992.

At a New York News Briefing, the National Association of Pur-

chasing Management dismissed fears the nation may slip back into a second downturn.

"Although optimistic that a recession will not return, purchasers are expecting the economy to continue to recover at a slow pace during 1992, fuelled by continued relatively strong growth in exports and moderate inflation," said Robert Bretz, chairman of the trade group's Business Survey Committee.

He predicted manufacturer revenues would rise by 4.2 per cent before inflation next year.

But testimony in Washington, where lawmakers and the Bush administration are scrambling to get the economy back on track, focused on the near future — and was far gloomier.

"We expect growth to be anemic at best through the spring of 1992," Congressional

Budget Office Director Robert Reischauer told the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Mr. Reischauer, called in to advise lawmakers on growth proposals that are expected to surface early next year, said the pace of recovery from recession was only half the rate of previous economic comebacks.

And that could mean yet more job losses.

"The unemployment rate could rise a bit," said Mr. Reischauer. He added it was also "likely to remain above 6.5 per cent through much, if not all, of '92."

The U.S. unemployment rate is currently 6.8 per cent, after companies nationwide — from giant IBM Corp to tiny corner stores — slashed hundreds of thousands of jobs to cut costs.

## Sudan relaxes foreign currency rules

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has relaxed the rules for the possession of foreign currency, black market dealing in which carries the death penalty.

State-run radio reported Friday that under new central bank rules people holding foreign currency accounts would be allowed to withdraw any amount in cash which could be spent in official duty free shops or taken out of the country.

Three people have been executed in Sudan for illegally dealing in and possessing foreign currency since 1989.

Cash-strapped Sudan, suffering from famine and civil war, introduced the tough banking regulations to try to reduce the money supply and control inflation.

The government has, however, relaxed some regulations, allowing holders of hard currency to take their money out of Sudan as travellers' cheques and to transfer money abroad through the banks.

The Sudanese pound was drastically devalued to a uniform rate of 15 to the U.S. dollar in October when subsidies on essential commodities including fuel and sugar were scrapped.

The old 12.5 pounds to the dollar rate was reserved for hard currency earners.

## Moroccan phosphate production, exports fall by 20%

RABAT (R) — Production and exports by the Moroccan phosphate industry, the mainstay of the economy, slumped by about 20 per cent during the first half of the year.

Figures published by the ministry of commerce and industry Friday showed production of all minerals fell from 11.2 million tonnes during the first half of last year to 8.9 million tonnes in the same period this year.

A sharp fall in foreign demand during the Gulf crisis was said mainly to blame for the poor performance.

Output of raw phosphate rock, which accounted for most of the decline, fell 21.3 per cent from 8.2 million tonnes, and the value of exports slumped by 19 per cent to the equivalent of \$142 million.

Foreign sales of phosphate by-products declined. Exports of phosphoric acid fell 6.6 per cent to \$180 million and of phosphate-based fertilisers by 30 per cent to \$118 million.

## Central American leaders call for anti-poverty drive

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (R) — Central American presidents ended a two-day summit in Honduras Friday with a call for international aid to help fight crushing poverty in a region torn by guerrilla wars.

As long as deep social inequalities divide the region all Central American peace efforts threaten to end in failure, the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama warned in a joint statement.

"To consolidate a firm and lasting peace it is indispensable to assure adequate living conditions for our people," the statement said.

According to a report drawn up by regional health ministries, malnutrition alone takes the lives of 120,000 Central American children, aged five or younger, every year.

To reverse the critical levels of malnutrition and mortality endured by most of the region's 28 million people, the presidents of the cash-strapped countries said an estimated \$10 billion would have to be spent on social and health programmes over the next few years.

They urged the international community to assist in the region's development, but said the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank was especially well-placed to help.

The meeting was billed by government officials as the first of 11 regional summits since 1986 that focused more on social issues than efforts to end Central America's guerrilla wars.

The six presidents also committed themselves to integrate their countries economically and to move quickly, as a trading bloc, to negotiate free trade agreements with Mexico and Venezuela.



Mahathir Mohamad

1992. Singapore has agreed to buy 150 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas for 15 years for power generation.

Petronas President Azizan Zainul Abidin said it was negotiating the sale of an additional 10 to 20 MMSCFD of gas to Singapore for use as "town gas."

## Malaysia's giant piped gas venture comes on stream

SEGAMAT, Malaysia (R) — Malaysia Saturday brought on-stream South East Asia's largest natural gas pipeline project, designed to increase the booming economy's energy supply while reducing reliance on oil.

"This is a historic occasion for the country," Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said before switching on the flow of natural gas to the 730-kilometre pipeline.

The project costing 2.3 billion ringgit (\$840 million), is Malaysia's most ambitious venture yet to tap its vast reserves of natural gas, mostly situated in offshore fields in the northeast.

The pipeline, laid by the state oil firm Petronas, links its processing in the northeast to the western and southern parts of the country and neighbouring Singapore.

oil producer, has natural gas reserves of 59 trillion standard cubic feet, which can supply three times as much energy as its oil reserves.

"This project is in line with the government's policy of diversifying its energy and fuel supplies ... and reducing dependence on oil," Mr. Mahathir said at the ceremony in this town in the southern state of Johor.

Malaysia's energy consumption is expected to grow 9.5 per cent a year between 1991 and 1995. Mr. Mahathir said efforts were being made to reduce the domestic use of oil, which is expected to double to 600,000 barrels a day (b/d) by the year 2005.

Malaysian officials said the share of oil in the nation's energy supply is expected to fall to 52 per cent by 1995 from 59 per cent in 1990 and 71 per cent in 1985.

The share of natural gas will rise to 39 per cent in 1995 from 27 per cent in 1990 and 19 per cent in 1985.

Mr. Mahathir said the piped natural gas would be used for power generation, feedstock for petrochemical plants, "town gas," and even as fuel for some gas-powered vehicles.

Most of Malaysia's power plants are run on imported fuel oil. Mr. Mahathir said the use of fuel oil would be reduced to 5.5 per cent by 1995 from 42 per cent currently.

He said to encourage use of natural gas for vehicles (NGV), the government had decided to fix the NGV price at half the petrol price, which will take effect from next month.

Petronas officials said the first delivery of natural gas to Singapore would be made in February

## Bulgaria plans debt rescheduling

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria will soon propose a general rescheduling of its \$12 billion debt, which has not been serviced since last year, a government official said Friday.

"During the first two months of 1992, Bulgaria will introduce to the bank creditors a package of proposals for general settlement of the country's payments on the debt," the official told Reuters.

He said the package will include a long-term rescheduling, which could be as much as 20 years, with a grace period.

At present the debt is mostly in the name of the Bulgarian Foreign

Trade Bank, which is a state-owned joint-stock company — but not a state organ.

Some Bulgarian politicians have suggested bankrupting the bank to solve the debt problem, causing creditors some concern.

But in what could be a confidence-building move, Bulgaria's parliament is expected to recognise the sovereign nature of the debt within three months, senior officials said.

They said Bulgaria would also buy back part of the debt. More than \$10 billion of the

debt is owed to around 300 private banks and Austrian and German banks have expressed interest in conducting debt-equity swaps in Bulgaria.

Deutsche Bank A.G., which chairs Bulgaria's advisory committee of creditor banks, warned earlier this month that it would resign its position if Sofia did not provide a government guarantee for its debt.

Bulgaria suspended repayments of principal on the debt in March last year and froze interest payments the following June.

Since then bank creditors have repeatedly rolled over payments for 90-day periods.

Bulgarian negotiators met creditor banks in Vienna earlier this week and agreed another 90-day rollover on debt payments until the end of March. They are likely to meet again at the end of January, but no meeting has been fixed yet.

Earlier this year Bulgaria rescheduled \$1.8 billion of official debt owed to members of the Paris Club of government creditors.

## OECD says more aid should go to fledgling democracies

PARIS (R) — International aid donors should recognise that the transition to democracy can add to the economic distress of poor countries and should increase aid to them in the transition period, the OECD has said.

"It is critical that the donor community recognise the importance of continuing and possibly increasing economic assistance to help those countries embarking on the path of political reform," said Alexander Love, chairman

of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), in his annual report.

The DAC groups 18 of the 24 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations plus the European Community (EC).

In his report, Mr. Love noted concern that some countries were pushing through difficult economic reform programmes at the same time as trying to install democracy.

He noted the argument that autocratic governments were more apt to implement tough reforms, and maybe new democratic governments should backpedal on economic reforms.

But he said a stronger consensus existed to help the new regimes effect the economic reforms as quickly as possible.

"Donors might help by increasing the assistance levels for countries undertaking concurrent political and economic reform," Mr. Love wrote.

"Collapse of these (newly democratic) governments, and reversion to autocratic systems, is a distinct threat if economic issues are not dealt with effectively. Haiti is a recent case in point," Mr. Love said.

The DAC report suggested that, even though U.S. aid to poor nations rose sharply in 1990, Washington could still do better.

It said the rise was partly due to transfers to multilateral agencies and also to cancellation of Egyptian military debt.

### CLARIFICATION

The correct address for the rent ad published Saturday Dec. 14, is in Um Uthaina and not Abdoon as stated.

For information call: tel. 814284

**Furnished Deluxe Apartment For Rent**

Consists of two bedrooms, dining room, lounge, American-style kitchen; separate central heating.

Location: Al Hussein Housing Estate-near the 5th Circle, Amman.

Rent: JD 4,000.

Please call tel: 865683

**Jordan Electricity Authority**  
**Hussein Thermal Power Station**

**Announcement Of Tender Availability**  
**Reverse Osmosis Unit Tender No. 82/91**

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Reverse Osmosis Unit Tender document, No. 82/91, for the Hussein Thermal Power Station is available for purchase as of 15 December 1991.

The tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of one (1) Reverse Osmosis unit of 33 m<sup>3</sup>/h capacity with related auxiliaries in addition to one (1) product water storage tank of 500 m<sup>3</sup> capacity and one (1) Acid storage tank of 25 m<sup>3</sup> capacity. Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the tendering committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman time, 15 February, 1992 at the JEA offices.

The tenderer shall submit with his tender a tender bond amounting JD 25,000 in accordance with the tender documents.

Tender documents are available from the address given below for a non-refundable fee of JD 50 payable to JEA for each copy of the tender documents.

**Jordan Electricity Authority**  
**Post Office Box 2310**  
**Amman, Jordan**  
**Telex: 21259/23270**

**HOTEL AQUAMARINA III**

Three nights/four days per person JD 29.000 in double room occupancy including breakfast and lunch.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

**For reservation please call: 03-31-6255**

**HOTEL AQUAMARINA II**

Three nights/four days per person JD 25.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

**For reservation please call: 03-31-6250**

**AQUAMARINA HOTEL — CLUB I**

Three nights/four days per person JD 48.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast and dinner buffet barbecue in Blue Lagoon Restaurant with MAHA, the Arabic Singer (for families only).

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

**For reservation please call: 03-31-6250**

### Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Amman Close	New York Close
	Date: 12/12/1991	Date: 13/12/1991
Sterling Pound	1.8070	1.8158
Deutsche Mark	1.5837	1.5895
Swiss Franc	1.3995	1.4030
French Franc	5.4095	5.4300
Japanese Yen	129.30	129.06
European Currency Unit	1.2914	1.2825

USD Per STD  
\*European Opening is 10:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.68	4.43	4.43	4.56
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.43	10.31	10.31
Deutsche Mark	9.37	9.43	9.38	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.12	7.93	8.00	7.87
French Franc	9.75	9.81	9.75	9.62
Japanese Yen	6.28	6.03	5.78	5.50
European Currency Unit	10.31	10.25	10.12	10.16

Interbank bid rates for minimum exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JO/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JO/Gm
Gold	359.70	6.85	Silver	3.86	.084

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 14/12/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6600	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.2331	1.2393
Deutsche Mark	0.4272	0.4293
Swiss Franc	0.4839	0.4863
French Franc	0.1251	0.1257
Japanese Yen	0.5262	0.5288
Dutch Guilder	0.3791	0.3810
Swedish Krona	0.1177	0.1183
Italian Lira	0.0566	0.0569
Belgian Franc	0.02076	0.02086

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7830
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1816
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1842	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7490
UAE Dirham	0.1842	0.1850
Greek Drachma	0.3750	0.3765
Cypriot Pound	1.5000	1.5200

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/12/1991 Close	11/12/1991 Close
All-Share	126.12	127.68
Banking Sector	105.51	105.44
Insurance Sector	127.30	128.45
Industry Sector	156.49	160.61
Services Sector	141.76	143.20

December 31, 1990 = 100

**Cinema CONCORD** Tel: 677420

**Dolph Lundgren**  
**DARK ANGEL**

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Cinema PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

**FEDS**

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre** Tel: 675571

The theatre will be closed from Dec. 9, 1991 to Jan. 2, 1992. Shows of

**"SOMERSAULT TIME"**

will resume Thursday, Jan. 2, 1992.

**Cinema RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

**NEW KIDS**

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.



## N. Korea offers sanctuary for Honecker

MOSCOW (AP) — Former East German leader Erich Honecker, fighting expulsion to Germany to face criminal charges, has been offered sanctuary in North Korea for medical treatment on "humanitarian" grounds, a North Korean embassy official said Saturday.

North Korea's official news agency quoted a government official in Pyongyang as saying Russian and Soviet authorities "affirmatively responded" to their request to provide sanctuary, but did not elaborate.

There was no immediate official announcement about Mr. Honecker's future.

The Russian Information Agency, citing unnamed sources, said late Friday the Russian government had agreed to allow Mr. Honecker to stay for a few days inside the Chilean embassy, where he has been holed up since Wednesday.

Nyong Jin Yun, a counselor at the embassy, said Mr. Honecker Thursday had requested to be allowed to go to Pyongyang for medical treatment.

However, he said, the North Korean offer ruled out political asylum and was made only for medical treatment from "a humanitarian point of view."

He said Mr. Honecker could go to North Korea in two or three days if allowed to leave.

Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency, in a dispatch monitored in Tokyo, quoted an anonymous spokesman for the Public Health Ministry as saying: "Our willingness to give medical assistance to a patient of his advanced age as he wishes fully conforms to the viewpoint of humanitarianism and defence of human rights."

"Therefore," he said, "the Soviet and Russian government authorities affirmatively responded to our stand."

Germany is seeking Mr. Honecker's return to stand trial on manslaughter charges for the policy of shooting people who tried to flee Communist east Germany.

The 79-year-old Mr. Honecker sought refuge in the Chilean embassy less than three days before the Russian government's deadline, set last month, of midnight Friday for him to leave the country or be expelled.

Mr. Yun said North Korean officials had appealed to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to let Mr. Honecker go to Pyongyang for medical reasons.

Mr. Honecker's supporters have said he is suffering from kidney cancer.

Mr. Honecker, who spent years in Gestapo jails during the Nazi era, has appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to overturn the expulsion order.

## Gorbachev isolated as republics flock to commonwealth

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev is softening his opposition to Boris Yeltsin's new commonwealth as more republics flock to join it, leaving the Soviet leader politically isolated and close to resignation.

Mr. Yeltsin, in a newspaper interview published Saturday, predicted the new commonwealth would turn the collapsing economy around by the end of 1992 and promised there would be no starvation this year.

The decision Friday by the leaders of five more republics to join the Slavic trioka of Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine in the commonwealth appeared to seal the destruction of Mr. Gorbachev's cherished union.

Mr. Gorbachev has warned repeatedly in recent weeks that the breakup of the country into independent states would be a catastrophe and could lead to violence. But he sounded a brighter note Friday, saying he was satisfied that the new structure was "taking on a broad, representative character" and being formed constitutionally, according to his spokesman, Andrei Grachev.

## It is not clear who is in charge of USSR — Cheney

BRUSSELS (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has said the turmoil in the Soviet Union has raised doubts about who is in charge of the once-mighty superpower.

Mr. Cheney also said at the end of a two-day meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) that Western nations should use the upheaval in the giant nation to push democratic reforms.

"We need to take advantage of every opportunity that exists to try to tilt the process in the direction we would like to see it go," he told a news conference.

Mr. Cheney joined other NATO defence ministers in appealing to Soviet authorities to respect all disarmament accords and keep their formidable arsenal of nuclear weapons under the control of one body.

"We attach the greatest importance to ensuring the safe, responsible and reliable control of nuclear weapons under a single authority," the ministers said in a statement.

The Soviet stockpile of some 27,000 nuclear weapons is based in four republics — Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan.

## U.N. scraps sports, cultural boycott of South Africa

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly has unanimously urged all nations to restore sporting, cultural, scientific and academic exchanges with South Africa due to progress made towards ending apartheid.

In its annual resolution on apartheid, the assembly also encouraged countries to review and lift remaining economic sanctions as South Africa creates a new transitional multiracial government and drafts a democratic, non-racial constitution.

## Seoul renews demand for North's denuclearisation

SEOUL (AP) — One day after signing a historic inter-Korean pact pledging peaceful coexistence, ratification of the milestone accord was in doubt over the issue on nuclear weapons.

South Korea reiterated its demand that North Korea abandon nuclear arms development and immediately open itself to international inspections. And the national news agency, Yonhap, quoting government sources, said the agreement would not be ratified until the nuclear weapons programme is halted.

The new developments come amid mounting concerns that the Seoul government may have moved too hastily Friday signing the comprehensive accord on reconciliation and non-aggression with Communist North Korea, which did not cover nuclear issues.

Major newspapers carried stories Saturday quoting unnamed government sources as saying ratification of the accord in the South Korean parliament will be endangered unless the North halts its nuclear weapons programme.

Yonhap said ratification, which was to be completed by Feb. 18, would be delayed until the rival Koreans resolve their nuclear differences. It said the government feels it cannot get public support otherwise in an election year.

The comprehensive accord must be approved in North Korea and by South Korea's National Assembly. The governing Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) controls a substantial majority in the 299-member National Assembly, and it is unlikely many members would bolt from the party line.

developing a nuclear arsenal have overshadowed high-level inter-Korean talks since they started 15 months ago. The concerns intensified in recent months as intelligence reports indicated the North could develop a nuclear weapons as early as 1993.

The two nations issued a brief joint statement pledging to work towards a nuclear-free peninsula Friday. The statement was issued moments before their prime ministers signed the first major agreement between the two Koreas since 1945 on easing political and military tensions.

The agreement signed Friday committed the two countries not to attack each other. They also pledged themselves to put a formal end to the Korean War and to help reunite the millions of relatives separated by their division. It marked the first time the North Korea had officially recognised the Seoul government.

A fully implemented accord on peaceful coexistence and an agreement on a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula would remake the political and economic face of one of the last theatres of the cold war.

It was unclear, however, how implementation of the new accord could proceed with nuclear issues still outstanding.

South Korean Unification Minister Choi Ho-Jong said both Koreas supported a nuclear free peninsula and planned to discuss scrapping of North Korean nuclear reprocessing facilities and simultaneous inspections at a meeting planned for later this month at the border village of Panmunjom.

Mr. Choi told Korean re-presses that progress was being made on nuclear issues and indicated the public should be patient.

The unresolved nuclear issue has added to concerns in both Seoul and Washington that the accord could be deficient.

"The government once again strongly urges the North to accept President Rob Tae-Woo's initiative for denuclearisation and peace," said a statement by South Korean Information Minister Choi Chang-Yoon Saturday.

It called on the North "to immediately abandon its nuclear arms development programme while accepting international nuclear inspection."

The statement called on citizens "to support with cool-headedness and patience government efforts to translate the spirit of the South-North agreement into the desired tangible results."

He also said the commonwealth will ensure that the armed forces and nuclear weapons will stay within a "single command system."

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev, in separate telephone calls Friday, both assured President George Bush that the command and control system for nuclear weapons remains secure.

According to TASS, Mr. Gorbachev told Mr. Bush that he now saw his main task as "making sure that processes go on without confrontation, within the constitutional framework, and involve elected bodies and people themselves."

Eight republics, representing more than 90 per cent of the Soviet population, now are moving to form the commonwealth. Mr. Gorbachev said this week he would resign "as a matter of principle" if the republics chose the loose commonwealth arrangement over his proposed union treaty.

A source close to the 60-year-old president said Friday he probably would not quit until at least seven of the 12 republic legislatures have ratified the commonwealth pact. It was unclear when that might be. But Mr. Gorbachev is expected to remain in office for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow next week.

The Soviet Union is heading into winter with food and fuel perilously short, and U.S. officials have expressed concern about the possibility of widespread unrest.

Mr. Gorbachev lost his last major domestic political ally Friday when Kazakhstan's president Nursultan Nazarbayev, agreed to join the new structure and delivered a stinging rebuff to the Soviet president.

"As far as Gorbachev is concerned, it's time for him to stop making hysterical warnings about imminent bloodshed and great misfortune," Mr. Nazarbayev told reporters in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, 1,600 miles (2,600 kilometres) south-east of Moscow.

Mr. Nazarbayev and the leaders of the four Central Asian republics Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan and Kirgizia — agreed in Ashkhabad to join the commonwealth if they are recognised as equal co-founders with the Slavic republics.

Mr. Baker said Friday the United States cannot and will not inject itself into Soviet affairs as power shifts from the centre to the Soviet republics.

Mr. Baker, on the eve of a trip to several Soviet republic capitals, said the "new Russian revolution... must come from within and not from outside."

Mr. Baker, at a news conference after meeting with President Bush, said the president spoke by telephone Friday with Mr. Yeltsin who gave him a "full update" on efforts to form a new commonwealth to replace the Soviet Union.

"Events are moving quickly and dramatic decisions are being made as the republics sort out relations among themselves" and seek to form a common entity for national policy, Mr. Baker said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Air Force cargo planes will deliver humanitarian relief supplies to cities in Russia, Byelorussia and Armenia

a week before Christmas, the U.S. Defence Department announced Friday.

A C-5 aircraft from Westover Air Force Base, Mass., will leave Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Dec. 15 with 150,000 pounds (11,500 kilograms) of relief supplies. It is due to arrive in Moscow on Dec. 17 with coats, blankets, clothing and medical supplies.

Half of the cargo will be unloaded in Moscow and the other half will be sent on to Yerevan, Armenia.

On Dec. 18, a U.S. Air Force C-141 will leave from Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, with relief supplies for delivery to Minsk, the Byelorussian capital.

The U.S. Defence Department organised 23 previous relief flights to Armenia in response to the 1988 earthquake, but the C-5 flight announced Friday will be the first U.S. humanitarian mission to Moscow and Minsk.

The coats, blankets and clothing are from excess Defence Department stocks. The medical supplies are donated by private voluntary organisations.

## London store complex hit by firebombs

LONDON (R) — A London shopping centre was the target of a guerrilla arson attack Saturday, raising fears of a Christmas bombing blitz on busy British stores by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Anti-terrorist squad officers were called to the Brent Cross Shopping Centre in North London early Saturday after fires broke out in two stores in the complex.

They found the blazes were caused by incendiary devices similar to those used in a spate of firebombings by the IRA in its fight against British rule in Northern Ireland.

The Brent Cross attack, marking the third consecutive weekend of firebombings on the British mainland, confirms police fears that the IRA is stepping up a campaign of chaos and disruption in the hectic shopping days before Christmas.

No one has been injured in the wave of arson attacks, which have centred on the capital and northern England, but merchandise and buildings have been badly damaged.

Last weekend, more than a dozen devices were planted in a firebombing spree in Northern England, one of them in a child's car seat on sale in a department store.

Police said the incendiary devices at Brent Cross were "similar to those found in London, Manchester and Blackpool in recent weeks."

An unidentified spokesman for the Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. He said it reflected "the interests and aspirations of the Korean people" and would help preserve peace in Asia.

On Friday, South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik urged North Korea to accept simultaneous inspections of suspected nuclear weapons sites, including U.S. bases in the South. He also called for a ban on nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.

North Korea has denied developing nuclear arms and instead demanded the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons it says are deployed in the South. South Korea's proposal for mutual inspections, including U.S. bases, nullifies that demand.

Editorials and columns in South Korean newspapers Saturday warned that nuclear issues could still overshadow the accord, making it meaningless. Some blamed the government for putting aside nuclear issues to get an agreement which could be a political coup for the governing party in an election year.

"Without solving the nuclear issue, peace cannot be consolidated," said Lee Bu-Yong, vice president of the leading opposition Democratic Party Saturday.

"Political considerations appear to have affected the decision (to sign)."

The Dong-A Ilbo newspaper published a survey of 1,200 adults that they said showed 72 per cent felt the government should exercise caution in implementing either the accord or dealing with the North on nuclear issues.

"We welcome and appreciate

## Azerbaijan is in no rush to join new commonwealth

BAKU, Soviet Union (R) — Azerbaijan has said it was in no hurry to follow eight other Soviet republics into a new commonwealth, saying its top priority was independence.

President Ayaz Muttalibov's spokesman Rasim Musabekov said Azerbaijan welcomed the commonwealth initiative but added that it would "first evaluate what this all means for Azeri independence."

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan announced Friday they were ready to join the new free-market association formed by Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine last Sunday.

Mr. Muttalibov is under pressure from nationalists to distance Azerbaijan from the Soviet Union.

Tamerlan Garayev, vice-chairman of the Azeri parliament and a leader of the opposition National Popular Front, said joining the commonwealth would hinder the republic's drive towards full independence.

"I am against it," he said. "We have to be very careful. First we have to be fully independent and this is going to take some time."

Azerbaijan's declaration of independence last August has so far been recognised by Turkey and Romania. Pakistan has offered support but stopped short of full recognition.

In a separate development, the commander of Soviet Interior Ministry troops said Friday his men should pull out of a disputed southern territory where Armenians and Azeris have fought each other for nearly four years in an ethnic conflict.

Lieutenant-General Vasily Savin told Soviet News Agency (TASS) it was senseless for Interior Ministry troops to remain in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, where some 1,000 people have been killed since fighting broke out in 1988.

"Our proposals are simple: A ceasefire, the pullout of all armed units without exception from Nagorno-Karabakh, the creation of power structures and legal organs independent of national ambitions," he said.

The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated region ruled by Azerbaijan for nearly 70 years, is the most intractable of many ethnic disputes tearing the Soviet Union apart. Many fear a bloodbath if Soviet troops pull out.

But Gen. Savin said a withdrawal would give the people of the region the chance to resolve their differences.

"If the troops stay, the politicians will never cut through the knot of problems which have piled up in the region."

His remarks conflicted with last month's decision by the State Council, the collective Soviet leadership, to deploy more troops at flashpoints in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Since the decision was taken, Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia have set up their own commonwealth of independent states, stripping Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of power and reducing the council he heads to a virtually powerless body.

Armenia and Azerbaijan came to the brink of war last month after a plane carrying Azeri officials and peace negotiators crashed in Nagorno-Karabakh, killing 20.

Azerbaijan accused Armenia of shooting it down, while the Armenians blamed the incident on bad weather.

Nagorno-Karabakh proclaimed itself independent after a referendum this week and has applied to join the new commonwealth.

Azerbaijan declared the move illegal. A statement from the office of President Muttalibov Friday said the republic was abolishing the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh, a decision likely to further aggravate tensions with Armenia.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar earlier in the week warned the EC that immediate recognition of Croatia could spread the conflict to other republics with Serbian minorities.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has promised to recognise both republics as independent states by Christmas and the EC is expected to discuss the question in Brussels Monday.

A draft Security Council resolution alludes to the recognition controversy by "strongly" urging states and parties "to refrain from any action, political or other which might contribute to increasing tension."

Britain and the United States are opposed to recognition of the breakaway republics, fearing it may remove any incentive for the parties to compromise.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov told reporters, "personally, as the representative of the Soviet Union, I hope very much that they (Germany) would not make that move."

The draft, initiated by France, asks the Secretary-General to send a "small group of personnel, including military personnel," to Yugoslavia as part of the mission of his envoy, Cyrus Vance, to prepare for a possible peacekeeping operation.

About a dozen monitors are expected to go.

The secretary-general has recommended a peacekeeping force of more than 10,000 for Serbian enclaves within Croatia but only after the warring parties stop fighting.

Sor far 14 ceasefire between Croatia and Serbian forces have failed.

## Germany to recognise Yugoslav republics

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Germany has flatly rejected the U.N. secretary-general's pleas against recognising breakaway Yugoslav republics Croatia and Slovenia as independent states.

The Bonn government said that failing to do so, would only encourage the Yugoslav military to escalate its war against separatist territories.

The letter, from German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, confirmed Bonn's intention to recognise the two rebel republics.

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, was delivered Friday, a day before the Security Council was set to adopt a resolution asking the United Nations to send a small party of observers, including some military officers, to Yugoslavia immediately.

The observers would survey logistics for a huge U.N. peacekeeping force to be sent only if the Serbs and Croats stop fighting.

Some diplomats said the measure was aimed partly at showing Germany that the United Nations was trying to resolve the conflict and thus head off recognition of Croatia.

Mr. Genscher said in the letter that the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army would feel rewarded for its aggressive policies towards Croatia if the breakaway republics were not recognised, and an "escalation of violence" might follow.

Responding to a letter Mr. Perez de Cuellar sent to the European Community (EC) Tuesday, Mr. Genscher wrote that he was deeply concerned his message would encourage the very forces who have "resisted a successful conclusion to the peace process."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar earlier in the week warned the EC that immediate recognition of Croatia could spread the conflict to other republics with Serbian minorities.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has promised to recognise both republics as independent states by Christmas and the EC is expected to discuss the question in Brussels Monday.

A draft Security Council resolution alludes to the recognition controversy by "strongly" urging states and parties "to refrain from any action, political or other which might contribute to increasing tension."

Britain and the United States are opposed to recognition of the breakaway republics, fearing it may remove any incentive for the parties to compromise.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov told reporters, "personally, as the representative of the Soviet Union, I hope very much that they (Germany) would not make that move."

The draft, initiated by France, asks the Secretary-General to send a "small group of personnel, including military personnel," to Yugoslavia as part of the mission of his envoy, Cyrus Vance, to prepare for a possible peacekeeping operation.

About a dozen monitors are expected to go.

The secretary-general has recommended a peacekeeping force of more than 10,000 for Serbian enclaves within Croatia but only after the warring parties stop fighting.

Sor far 14 ceasefire between Croatia and Serbian forces have failed.

PARIS (R) — French former World Boxing Council (WBC) junior welterweight champion Christophe Tiozzo was beaten up by eight men in a Paris street and had his face slashed, his manager told reporters. Jean-Christophe Courreges said Tiozzo required 44 stitches after the attack, which took place as he entered a restaurant in the Champs Elysees district Wednesday night.

Courreges said Tiozzo's scheduled WBC light heavyweight title bout against Australian Jeff Harding in Marseille on March 15 has been postponed. The fight will probably take place in late April, he added.

WELLINGTON (R) — A tall advertisement offering free beer until a drinker went to the toilet has been banned by New Zealand Broadcasting Authorities.

The advertisement, for a tavern "bladderbuster" offer, featured the sound of drinkers burning to go to the toilet after drinking beer. New Zealand's Broadcasting Standards Authority upheld a complaint from a temperance group against Kiwi FM in the North Island city of Hamilton saying the advertisement was in bad taste. The authority said the commercial was "designed to do no more than appeal to patrons firstly, to obtain free beer secondly, to drink as much as possible in a short time and thirdly, to continue drinking."

PARIS (R) — French former World Boxing Council (WBC) junior welterweight champion Christophe Tiozzo was beaten up by eight men in a Paris street and had his face slashed, his manager told reporters. Jean-Christophe Courreges said Tiozzo required 44 stitches after the attack, which took place as he entered a restaurant in the Champs Elysees district Wednesday night.

Courreges said Tiozzo's scheduled WBC light heavyweight title bout against Australian Jeff Harding in Marseille on March 15 has been postponed. The fight will probably take place in late April, he added.

WELLINGTON (R) — A tall advertisement offering free beer until a drinker went to the toilet has been banned by New Zealand Broadcasting Authorities.

The advertisement, for a tavern "bladderbuster" offer, featured the sound of drinkers burning to go to the toilet after drinking beer. New Zealand's Broadcasting Standards Authority upheld a complaint from a temperance group against Kiwi FM in the North Island city of Hamilton saying the advertisement was in bad taste. The authority said the commercial was "designed to do no more than appeal to patrons firstly, to obtain free beer secondly, to drink as much as possible in a short time and thirdly, to continue drinking."



## Ancient culture discovered in Amazon basin

WASHINGTON (R) — The discovery of ancient pottery shards in the Amazon basin is evidence that a sophisticated society lived there 7,000 to 8,000 years ago, archaeologist Anna Roosevelt said. The fragile, red-brown pottery shards are from a people who were technologically advanced long before the Incas and other cultures of the Andes, she said in an article in the Dec. 13 issue of Science magazine.

Mr. Roosevelt, curator of archaeology at the Field Museum in Chicago, led the expedition to the Amazon region in 1987 as a challenge to earlier studies from the 19th and mid-20th centuries which guessed the pottery finds to be only 1,000 to 1,400 years old. Carbon-dating and thermoluminescence analysis, another time dating technique, places them at 7,000 to 8,000 years old, at least 1,000 years older than the oldest pottery previously found in South America. The finding refutes the long-held belief that the region had only been sparsely populated in prehistoric times, she said. The excavations were carried out in the village of Taperinha in the Santarém region of Brazil.

## Ukraine scraps law banning male homosexual acts

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament voted to repeal a Soviet law imposing sentences of between two and five years imprisonment for male homosexual acts. The decision was taken during a debate on AIDS. Valery Hasyuk, chairman of a National Committee on the Disease, said Ukraine was the first former Soviet republic where homosexuality would no longer be a crime. Female homosexual acts were not covered in the Soviet criminal code. Parliament also passed a law setting up a state committee to oversee efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS, for which there is no cure. Official statistics, believed to be incomplete, say Ukraine, with a population of 52 million, has 296 carriers of the virus. Five cases of AIDS have been recorded of whom four have died.

## China hails new 'anti-cancer' cigarette

PEKING (R) — A Chinese cigarette factory is touting a new brand of "anti-cancer" smokes. The magic ingredient is the trace element Selenium that reduces cancer-causing poisons in cigarette smoke, the New China News Agency said. Tobacco in Xibao brand cigarettes from southern Hubei province is rich in Selenium and the so-called "anti-cancer" cigarettes have been hailed as "a glad tidings for addicts."

## Boxer beaten up on Paris street

PARIS (R) — French former World Boxing Council (WBC) junior welterweight champion Christophe Tiozzo was beaten up by eight men in a Paris street and had his face slashed, his manager told reporters. Jean-Christophe Courreges said Tiozzo required 44 stitches after the attack, which took place as he entered a restaurant in the Champs Elysees district Wednesday night. Courreges said Tiozzo's scheduled WBC light heavyweight title bout against Australian Jeff Harding in Marseille on March 15 has been postponed. The fight will probably take place in late April, he added.

## 'Bladderbuster' drinking ad banned in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — A tall advertisement offering free beer until a drinker went to the toilet has been banned by New Zealand Broadcasting Authorities. The advertisement, for a tavern "bladderbuster" offer, featured the sound of drinkers burning to go to the toilet after drinking beer. New Zealand's Broadcasting Standards Authority upheld a complaint from a temperance group against Kiwi FM in the North Island city of Hamilton saying the advertisement was in bad taste. The authority said the commercial was "designed to do no more than appeal to patrons firstly, to obtain free beer secondly, to drink as much as possible in a short time and thirdly, to continue drinking."

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom right of the page.